

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4626, by Representatives Berg, Dent, Leavitt, Richards, Pollet, Reeves, Ryu, Corry, Street, Stonier, Taylor, Zahn, Walen, Jacobsen, Callan, Nance, Bronoske, Salahuddin, Schmick, Morgan, Fey, Parshley, Santos, Cortes, Fosse, Barkis, Scott, Obras, Dufault, and Paul

1 WHEREAS, Thomas H. Gray has demonstrated an exceptional
2 dedication to the field of aerospace engineering, leaving an
3 indelible mark on the aviation industry through his pioneering work;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Thomas Gray, a graduate in electrical engineering from
6 the University of New Mexico, began his distinguished career at
7 Boeing in 1961, where he played a critical role in the flight testing
8 of groundbreaking aircraft, including the 707, 747, and 767; and

9 WHEREAS, Thomas Gray made history as the first nonpilot to fly
10 aboard the maiden 747 flight on February 9, 1969, a milestone event
11 that revolutionized modern air travel and showcased his technical
12 expertise and commitment to innovation; and

13 WHEREAS, His extensive contributions to flight testing,
14 particularly in the integration of digital and computer technology,
15 have significantly advanced the safety, performance, and reliability
16 of aircraft worldwide; and

17 WHEREAS, Thomas Gray extended his engineering talents beyond
18 aviation to technologies that helped the Navy expand its ability to
19 command the maritime domain, and played a pivotal role in the space
20 shuttle Enterprise landing tests in 1977, further cementing his
21 legacy as a versatile and forward-thinking engineer; and

22 WHEREAS, Outside his professional achievements, Thomas Gray has
23 demonstrated a deep commitment to preserving aviation history and

1 inspiring future generations through his volunteer work, amassing
2 over 1,400 hours as a docent at the Museum of Flight since 2013; and

3 WHEREAS, His dedication to honoring the legacy of African
4 American aviators through his work with the Tuskegee Airmen's Sam
5 Bruce Chapter has helped correct historical inaccuracies and educate
6 the public on the invaluable contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Thomas Gray's mentorship and involvement in youth
9 programs such as the Michael P. Anderson Memorial Aerospace Program
10 and the Red-Tailed Hawks Flying Club have inspired and nurtured the
11 aspirations of countless young people pursuing careers in aerospace;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, At 87 years old, Thomas Gray continues to serve as a
14 beacon of innovation, mentorship, and advocacy, embodying the
15 pioneering spirit that has propelled the aerospace industry forward;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
17 of Representatives honor Thomas H. Gray for his extraordinary
18 contributions to aerospace engineering, his tireless efforts to
19 educate and inspire, and his unwavering commitment to advancing the
20 field of engineering within the State of Washington; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
22 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
23 Representatives to Thomas H. Gray as a token of appreciation for his
24 remarkable achievements and lasting impact on the aerospace
25 community.

26
27 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
28 Resolution 4626 adopted by the House of Representatives
29 February 28, 2025
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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk