

SENATE RESOLUTION
8665

By Senators Zarelli, Eide and Pridemore

WHEREAS, Mount St. Helens is the most active volcano in the Cascade Range; and
WHEREAS, The long-dormant Mount St. Helens erupted at 8:32 a.m. on Sunday, May 18, 1980, resulting in the most violent volcanic eruption in the United States during the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, The lateral blast from the volcano accelerated to at least 300 miles per hour, and the blast cloud traveled as far as 17 miles northward; and

WHEREAS, The nine-hour eruption killed 57 people, destroyed 234 square miles of forest, and blocked out the sun over half the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Everyday citizens throughout the blast area joined with emergency crews to perform heroic acts of selflessness in rescuing and aiding people and animals alike; and

WHEREAS, The great destruction brought upon the Pacific Northwest by the eruption was followed by unprecedented forest growth and replenishment of the local ecosystem by nature; and

WHEREAS, Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Washington Geophysics Program continue to closely monitor Mount St. Helens for signs of renewed activity; and

WHEREAS, Mount St. Helens continues to remind Pacific Northwest residents of nature's power by periodically burping steam and venting ash; and

WHEREAS, The 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens will always have a place in Pacific Northwest history; and

WHEREAS, To this day buckets, vials, cups, pans, and other containers full of Mount St. Helens ash can be found in garages, sheds, and basements across Washington state; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Washington, the nation, and the world are continually fascinated by Mount St. Helens as seen by the thousands of tourists visiting the site every year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor Mount St. Helens and the brave men and women who endured its wrath on this, the 25th anniversary of its 1980 volcanic eruption.

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8665,
adopted by the Senate
March 31, 2005

THOMAS HOEMANN
Secretary of the Senate