

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.2009-4620, by Representative Eddy

WHEREAS, The greater Seattle area is home to over forty-five video game companies, making the video game industry in Washington one of the largest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Holkins, a comic writer, and Mike Krahulik, a cartoonist and artist, both originally from Spokane, Washington, collaborated to create an online comic about video games called Penny Arcade in the fall of 1998; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik, together with a team of talented men and women, created Penny Arcade Incorporated which has since become a highly influential consumer voice and renowned within the gaming industry; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik recently celebrated the comic's tenth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik launched the first annual Penny Arcade Expo, a gaming festival in Bellevue, Washington; and

WHEREAS, By 2008, the Penny Arcade Expo has grown to become the largest game convention in the United States, with over 58,500 video game enthusiasts attending the Penny Arcade Expo at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in August 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Penny Arcade Expo attracts thousands of tourists from around the globe to visit the city of Seattle while attending the convention, and has served to further reinforce Seattle's status as a leading locale of the game industry; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik created the Child's Play Charity, an organization which raises contributions of money and toys to donate to children's hospitals worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Child's Play Charity has raised over 4.5 million dollars for sixty different children's hospitals since it was established, including Washington's Seattle Children's Hospital and Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, and children's hospitals in six countries, including the United States and Canada;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the accomplishments of Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik in leading the computer and video game industries, encouraging industry growth through scholarships, and advancing Washington state as a hub of the gaming industry through the presence of Penny Arcade Expo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik for their hard work and dedication to improving the lives of hospitalized children worldwide through their creation and continued work with Child's Play Charity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
Resolution 4620 adopted by the House of Representatives
March 5, 2009

Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk