

SENATE RESOLUTION
8615

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Fraser, Eide, Ranker, Parlette, Becker, Baumgartner, Roach, Bailey, Hewitt, Honeyford, Litzow, Darneille, Dammeier, Tom, Fain, Harper, McAuliffe, Frockt, Nelson, Hargrove, Hasegawa, Conway, Keiser, Murray, Hill, and Hatfield

WHEREAS, The 2012 sport season represented the fortieth anniversary of Title IX, the 1972 federal law requiring nondiscrimination by gender in educational programs and activities, including school sports across the nation; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the struggle of generations of women athletes for equality that blazed the trail for those mentioned here; and

WHEREAS, Washington state honors and renews its commitment to female athletes and the promise and drive they exhibit both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, Participation in athletics is one of the most effective ways for girls and women in the United States to develop leadership skills, discipline, initiative, and self-confidence; and

WHEREAS, The communication, competition, and cooperation skills learned through athletic experience play a key role in the contributions of athletes to the home, workplace, and society; and

WHEREAS, Washington encourages media outlets to give equal representation to the accomplishments of women in sports, noting that greater visibility lends toward greater inspiration for young girls; and

WHEREAS, Washington high schools foster outstanding achievements in women's sports, such as volleyball, soccer, softball, and basketball. These include state volleyball champions: Tekoa-Oaksdale, Reardan, Castle Rock, West Valley, Prairie, and Bellarmine Prep; state soccer champions: Bear Creek, University Prep, Sumner Spartans, Columbia River, and Skyline; state softball champions: Coltan, Pe Ell, Connell, W.F. West, Kamiakin, and Woodinville; state basketball champions: Coltan, Reardan, Okanogan, Clarkston, Prairie, and Skyview; state wrestling champion Sedro-Woolley; and state golf champions: St. John-Endicott, Elma, Bellingham, Hanford, and Bellarmine Prep; and

WHEREAS, Institutions of higher education continue to produce elite athletes competing with pride, commitment, and passion; and

WHEREAS, Pacific Lutheran University's softball team swept across the nation to win the NCAA Division III championship and the Northwest Conference title, and starts the 2013 season ranked No. 1 by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association; and

WHEREAS, Pacific Lutheran University's volleyball team won the 2012 Northwest Conference title; and

WHEREAS, University of Puget Sound's women's soccer team claimed its eleventh consecutive Northwest Conference title win, extending the longest active title streak in Division III women's soccer history; and

WHEREAS, Seattle University's women's soccer team finished its first year in the Western Athletic Conference by making it all the way to the semi-finals and receiving the NSCAA All-Academic Award; Joan Bonvicini, the coach of its women's basketball team, was named Independent Coach of the Year for the team's first 20-win season playing as a full NCAA Division 1 team; women's basketball player Kacie Sowell was named Independent Player of the year; swim team member Kevlyn Richards qualified for the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials; and golfer Caitlin McCleary tied for first in the West Coast Conference Championships for golf, and along with Clare Sorenson, qualifies for the U.S. Women's Amateur in golf; and

WHEREAS, University of Washington's women's rowing team won its sixth consecutive Windermere Cup; alumni rower Mary Whipple won gold at the 2012 Olympics; its women's soccer team was honored by the NSCAA with the Team Academic Award and was the only Top 40 team in the PAC-12 to receive the award; and its softball team won the NCAA Regional Championship; and

WHEREAS, University of Washington's Katie Flood won the NCAA National Championship for the 1,500 meter; and

WHEREAS, Lynda Goodrich, Director of Athletics at Western Washington University for 26 years, has shown dedication and passion for the development of female athletes and women's sports overall; and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University's women's golf team swung its way to victory as first in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference's 2012 championship; its women's volleyball team won its sixth championship at the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championship; its women's soccer team was the regional and tournament champion for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and set the school record with a 19-4-0 season finish; and its women's varsity eight and junior varsity eight rowing teams each won a gold medal at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championship Regatta; and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University senior and rowing team captain Megan Northely was awarded the Elite 89 from the NCAA Division II for outstanding commitment on and off the field, maintaining a grade point average of 3.92, and bringing the team to three consecutive national titles; and

WHEREAS, Seattle Pacific University's softball team won the NCAA Division II National Championships; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Washington University's Keisa Monterola won the Big Sky Conference Outdoor Title in Track and Field, and Brianne Ryan of its women's basketball team was named the league's 2012 Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, Washington state is proud to be the home of the Seattle Storm and celebrates the accomplishment of players Sue Bird, who competed with the 2012 U.S. Olympic team as it achieved its unprecedented fifth straight gold-medal win; Lauren Jackson, who competed with the 2012 Australian Olympic team and is the fourth player in the WNBA to attain 6,000 points in her career; and Tina Thompson who made WNBA history by being the first player to score 7,000 points in her career; and

WHEREAS, Washington is proud to be the home of the Oly Rollers, who won the inaugural 2012 USA Roller Sports National Championship; and

WHEREAS, Washington celebrates the inaugural 2013 season of the Seattle Reign FC, our newest professional women's soccer team which includes Olympic athlete Hope Solo from Richland; and

WHEREAS, Washington recognizes the beginning of the 2013 seasons of our professional women's tackle football teams the Seattle Majestics, Everett Reign, and Tacoma Trauma; and

WHEREAS, Washington state continues to foster star Olympic athletes with 10 female athletes representing the U.S. and Washington at the Summer 2012 Olympics. These athletes and the events they participated in include: Track and field with Kara Patterson from Vancouver and Aretha Thurmond from Seattle; boxing with Queen Underwood from Seattle; cycling with Jennie Reed from Seattle; judo with Marti Malloy from Oak Harbor; rowing with Adrienne Martelli from University Place and Mary Whipple and Megan Kalmoe from Seattle; shooting with Amanda Furrer from Spokane; soccer with Hope Solo from Richland; swimming with Ariana Kukors from Auburn; and volleyball with Courtney Thompson from Kent; and

WHEREAS, Not all women and girls win championships or trophies, but still compete to the best of their abilities and give their all, sometimes suffering career-ending injury or even death in competition, the state recognizes the valiant efforts of all women and girl athletes in this state, especially athletes such as young Jacoby Miles who was paralyzed during gymnastics practice in November; and

WHEREAS, The National Girls and Women In Sport Coalition, established in 1987, declared February 6, 2013, to be National Girls and Women in Sports Day; and

WHEREAS, These women and many more not mentioned here are sterling examples of what is possible through hard work, focus, and determination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor Washington girls and women in sports on February 6, 2013, and encourage others to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to all of the aforementioned athletes and their respective institutions.