

SENATE RESOLUTION
8623

By Senators Billig, Baumgartner, Cleveland, Jayapal, Conway, Chase, Hasegawa, Lias, McCoy, Hargrove, Hatfield, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Mullet, Pedersen, McAuliffe, Fraser, Nelson, Rolfes, Padden, Parlette, Dammeier, Brown, O'Ban, Becker, Fain, Rivers, Schoesler, Sheldon, Hewitt, Hill, Benton, Roach, Warnick, Dandel, and Darneille

1 WHEREAS, When she was only a teenager, Carla Oman Peperzak was a
2 Jewish member of the Dutch Resistance during World War II who saved
3 at least 40 people from Nazi persecution; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1940, Peperzak was 16 and living in Holland when the
5 Nazi occupation started, the country which had the highest Jewish
6 fatality rate of Western Europe in World War II; and

7 WHEREAS, Peperzak dedicated herself to protecting others,
8 frequently and fearlessly placing her own life in danger; and

9 WHEREAS, Equipped with stolen German identification papers and a
10 German nurse's uniform, Peperzak became active in the Resistance,
11 forging identification papers, serving as a messenger for the
12 underground movement, and helping publish a newsletter of Allied
13 Forces' activities, all at perilous risk to her own safety; and

14 WHEREAS, During the course of her missions, Peperzak was stopped
15 at least three times while in disguise, the first when she rescued
16 her 2-year-old cousin who had been taken by the Nazis, and she
17 escaped by using resourcefulness to distract German officers; and

18 WHEREAS, Peperzak became a United States citizen in 1958 and
19 moved to Spokane in 2004; and

20 WHEREAS, Peperzak now speaks publicly and passionately about her
21 experiences at schools in Eastern Washington and Idaho, and shares
22 her story to educate the next generations and because there are few
23 Holocaust survivors remaining;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
2 honor and recognize Carla Oman Peperzak as a selfless and brave hero,
3 who saved the lives of many and is now using her experiences to speak
4 to new generations and educate us all about our history and the human
5 capacity to care for others while facing unimaginably difficult
6 challenges.

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