

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2018-4700, by Representative Barkis

1 WHEREAS, Representative Helen Sommers honorably and
2 distinguishably served the people of the 36th Legislative District
3 for thirty-six years; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Sommers chaired with distinction five
5 different House committees: State Government, Revenue, Higher
6 Education, Capital Budget, and Appropriations; and

7 WHEREAS, Many generations of Washington students owe a debt of
8 gratitude to Representative Sommers for her unwavering belief in the
9 benefits of a good education; and

10 WHEREAS, Although the intricacies of pension law confounded many
11 public policy experts, her persistent dedication to the sometimes
12 obscure principles of pension funding has ensured a stable, well-
13 funded pension system for the taxpayers and public employees of the
14 state; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Sommers' service spanned seven governors,
16 nine speakers, and countless legislators; and

1 WHEREAS, As a very young woman, Helen Sommers had the courage to
2 leave her home in New Jersey to live and work in Venezuela; and

3 WHEREAS, Representative Gary Alexander, the former ranking member
4 of the House Appropriations Committee, said that, "I hope someday
5 there will be a building named on this Capitol Campus for one of the
6 great leaders in our budgetary operations in the state"; and

7 WHEREAS, Although as tough as the budget can be and as
8 contentious as it can be, Appropriations Committee members always had
9 a laugh. They got along due to the fact that Representative Sommers
10 ran the meeting in a fashion where everyone was treated with respect;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Sommers brought a University of
13 Washington arborist to Olympia to identify and photograph the many
14 beautiful and unique trees on the Capitol Campus and then had a
15 booklet printed to provide a self-guided tour of twenty of the most
16 interesting trees; and

17 WHEREAS, Over her many years in the Legislature, various members
18 have used many different words when describing their relationship
19 with Representative Sommers, including: Trepidation, intimidation,
20 fear, love, but most often, respect; and

21 WHEREAS, The Legislature is authorized to approve names for
22 certain state facilities based on recommendations from the State
23 Capitol Committee and the Department of Enterprise Services, with the
24 advice of the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee and subject to
25 specific criteria; and

26 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature wishes to honor
27 Representative Sommers with a lasting memorial to her dedication and
28 service in the Legislature;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Washington State House of
30 Representatives, the Washington State Senate concurring, That the new

1 state office building commonly referred to as the "1063 Building" be
2 named the Helen Sommers Building; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Enterprise
4 Services place the name "The Helen Sommers Building" on the new
5 office building; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
7 forwarded to Helen Sommers; the Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor of the
8 State of Washington; and Chris Liu, Director of the Department of
9 Enterprise Services.

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