

SENATE RESOLUTION

8690

By Senator McCoy

1           WHEREAS, Adeline "Hattie" Black passed away January 19, 2018.  
2 Hattie was the eldest member of the Swinomish Indian Tribal  
3 community, born September 8, 1917. Hattie's well-lived life reflected  
4 many crucial stories to the history of her community; and

5           WHEREAS, Hattie grew up in a magical world, one profoundly tied  
6 to place: The water, open sky and lush landscape of the western  
7 Swinomish shoreline all inspired her. She delighted in picking wild  
8 lilies at Kukutali, watching fishermen work the fish traps near her  
9 home, and visiting her favorite spot: The tall fir at Lone Tree; and

10           WHEREAS, Hattie's family history provided a strong and firm tie  
11 to Lone Tree until the end of her life. Hattie was raised in a  
12 household run by women who managed their own small truck farm; she  
13 was educated first and foremost by her grandmother; and

14           WHEREAS, Educated in the La Conner School District from 1928 to  
15 1940, Hattie entered a world that could not have been easy for her.  
16 Nevertheless, Hattie persevered and she came to greatly enjoy her  
17 school years. She helped ease the transition of other Native children  
18 into the classroom. She participated in many extra-curricular  
19 activities such as musicals and plays; she delighted when her  
20 classmates made the long hike out to Lone Tree from town; and

21           WHEREAS, Before graduating from high school, Hattie's grandmother  
22 passed away and she decided to make it out on her own. Hattie had  
23 become a nanny for a family of five when Congress created the Women's

1 Army Corps. After enlisting and being assigned, Hattie served as an  
2 Air Operation Specialist in Brooks Air Force Base in Texas. She  
3 served until 1946 and reflected that her period of service was one of  
4 the happiest times of her life and was proud to be part of the  
5 efforts during WWII; and

6 WHEREAS, Hattie then married Roy Black and spent the following  
7 years traveling the world; from Jerusalem to Egypt to Alaska. She  
8 once again returned to the Swinomish Reservation in 2004 where she  
9 was cared for by her friends and later by Shuksan Healthcare center;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Hattie's long-lived life, allowed the Swinomish Tribe to  
12 document and archive crucial memories in order to help tell her story  
13 to future generations. Some of her personal historic donations  
14 include: Historic photographs, her grandmother's basket, and even her  
15 World War II uniform. On her 100th birthday, Hattie was presented  
16 with songs of honor and she ended her day by walking up to Lone Tree  
17 to see "her tree," called da-chook-hay in her native Lushootseed; and

18 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness to let go of a well-rooted  
19 member of the Swinomish Tribe, but may we honor and remember her in  
20 the history she left behind;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize and  
22 honor Adeline "Hattie" Black; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
24 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the family  
25 of Adeline "Hattie" Black and to President Brian Cladoosby.

--- END ---