

SENATE RESOLUTION

8708

By Senators Warnick, Nelson, Billig, Rolfes, McCoy, Pedersen, Chase, Hunt, Palumbo, Cleveland, Takko, Dhingra, Saldaña, Van De Wege, Schoesler, Fortunato, O'Ban, Bailey, Padden, Ericksen, Fain, Wagoner, Short, King, Conway, Hobbs, Keiser, Frockt, Mullet, Becker, Kuderer, Lias, Hawkins, Miloscia, Wilson, Brown, Darneille, Carlyle, Zeiger, Honeyford, Sheldon, Wellman, and Ranker

1 WHEREAS, Linda O'Neal was raised in Chelan, as a fourth-  
2 generation resident of north central Washington, and worked as a  
3 waitress to put herself through Washington State University's  
4 pharmacy program, then returned home to begin a career as a  
5 registered pharmacist; and

6 WHEREAS, As Linda Evans Parlette she was elected to the House of  
7 Representatives in 1996, furthering a public-service career that  
8 began as a member of the Lake Chelan School District board and later  
9 the North Central Educational Service District board; and

10 WHEREAS, Linda Evans Parlette won election to the Senate in 2000,  
11 becoming the first woman to serve as 12th District senator, and was  
12 returned for three more terms; and

13 WHEREAS, During Linda Evans Parlette's tenure in the Legislature,  
14 63 of the bills she introduced became law, including legislation to  
15 reduce the state's debt limit, expand the role of pharmacists in  
16 medical teams, improve coordination, transparency, and accountability  
17 among state landholding agencies, and ensure that habitat for salmon  
18 and steelhead is plentiful on the Upper Columbia River; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Parlette advocated successfully for the  
20 restoration of Beebe Springs, adjacent to the Chelan Fish Hatchery,  
21 and partnered with the Grand Coulee Dam School District and local  
22 community leaders to secure funding for the new Lake Roosevelt K-12  
23 school, which opened in 2014; and

1       WHEREAS, She worked tirelessly at the federal level to promote  
2 the reestablishment of the "Road to Cottonwood" in the North Cascades  
3 National Park; and

4       WHEREAS, Senator Parlette spent her entire career at the Capitol  
5 as a member of the health care and budget committees, and many years  
6 on committees that address natural-resource matters; and

7       WHEREAS, As fans of the Seattle Seahawks football team became  
8 known as the "12th Man," Senator Parlette's affiliation with the 12th  
9 District caused her to be called the "12th Woman"; and

10       WHEREAS, Senator Parlette served as chair of her Senate caucus  
11 for a record 10 years, during which time it grew from 17 members to a  
12 majority of 26 seats, and made history as the Senate's first  
13 bipartisan coalition; and

14       WHEREAS, Senator Parlette announced in 2016 that she would not  
15 seek a fifth Senate term and instead would conclude her service to  
16 the 12th Legislative District after 20 years, a mark equaled only by  
17 one other legislator and surpassed only by her Senate predecessor's  
18 record 29 years; and

19       WHEREAS, Her retirement from the Senate allowed more time with  
20 her husband Bob, their five children and three grandchildren, and her  
21 mother Jessie O'Neal; and

22       WHEREAS, Linda Evans Parlette continues to apply her experience  
23 as a pharmacist and knowledge gained from 20 years of health-care  
24 committee service on behalf of north central Washington, as executive  
25 director of the North Central Accountable Community of Health;

26       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize Senator  
27 Linda Evans Parlette and the contributions she made to the state and  
28 the people during her 20 years of service in the Legislature.

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