

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2019-4615, by Representative Maycumber

1 WHEREAS, Gary Baskett is a Washington state native who committed
2 his life to serving others as a coach and as a teacher; and

3 WHEREAS, Gary was a star athlete at West Seattle High School,
4 Wenatchee Valley Community College, and Central Washington
5 University; and

6 WHEREAS, Gary started his coaching career as a graduate assistant
7 coach at Central Washington University and then coached football and
8 track at Ilwaco High School, West Seattle High School, Lincoln High
9 School (Seattle), Federal Way High School, and Wenatchee Valley
10 College before ending up at Mead High School in Spokane; and

11 WHEREAS, Coach Baskett was the head boys track coach at Mead High
12 School for twenty years and took a well-established and successful
13 program to new heights by setting an example that raised many other
14 programs to great heights along the way; and

15 WHEREAS, Coach Baskett turned around several athletic programs
16 throughout his career, and while at Mead High School he built what
17 was already a successful team into one of the most dominant track and
18 field teams in Washington State history by winning five state
19 championships, placing second four times and third twice in the 3A
20 and 4A classification; and

21 WHEREAS, Baskett's teams produced 43 individual state champions
22 and 27 High School All-Americans; and

1 WHEREAS, Coach Baskett led Mead High School's track team through
2 a 17-year period where Mead won over 155 straight dual meets in the
3 Greater Spokane League, which continues to be one of the longest
4 unbeaten streaks in state history and helped raise the bar for track
5 and field to a point where the Greater Spokane League is one of the
6 most competitive dual meet leagues in the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, Coach Baskett was twice named Coach of the Year in the
8 Greater Spokane League and was also recognized as a Washington State
9 Coach of the Year; and

10 WHEREAS, Gary Baskett was inducted into the Washington State
11 Track and Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2001; and

12 WHEREAS, Gary Baskett continues to contribute to the sport of
13 track and field in many ways, including as an assistant coach at the
14 Community Colleges of Spokane, at Mt. Spokane High School, and at
15 Whitman College, and by speaking at various coaching clinics around
16 the state, serving as a cultural exchange coach for Washington State;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Gary Baskett made athletics an important part of his
19 life and the lives of many that he encountered, and also taught art
20 for 43 years touching the hearts and minds of thousands of students;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Gary Baskett's most important achievements can be seen
23 by the countless numbers of his athletes and students who responded
24 to his "Attitude Makes the Difference" philosophy and taking that
25 philosophy into their careers as successful lawyers, judges,
26 physicians, entrepreneurs, elected officials, athletes at the college
27 and professional level, and coaches at high school and college
28 levels, all working hard to make Washington state a better place; and

29 WHEREAS, Gary Baskett showed unwavering love and devotion to his
30 family, to his students, to his athletes, and to the State of
31 Washington;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of
33 Representatives, on behalf of the people of the State of Washington,
34 recognize and honor the life and work of Gary Baskett; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on
36 the people of the State of Washington to join us in reflecting on Mr.
37 Baskett's life and achievements, and to be inspired by his dedication

1 to the youth of this state and his dedication to his work, family,
2 community, and state.

3
4 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
5 Resolution 4615 adopted by the House of Representatives
6 February 28, 2019

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12 Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk