

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2019-4623, by Representatives Eslick, Sutherland, Robinson, Sells, Appleton, Jinkins, Fitzgibbon, Paul, Peterson, Stanford, Santos, Smith, Griffey, Klippert, Kraft, Schmick, Ybarra, Walsh, Caldier, Jenkin, Fey, Volz, Harris, MacEwen, DeBolt, Dent, Orwall, Lovick, Senn, Wylie, Chambers, Van Werven, Graham, Reeves, Morgan, Thai, Callan, Slatter, Entenman, and Dolan

1 WHEREAS, The Washington state House of Representatives remembers
2 and honors the five-year anniversary of the deadly landslide in Oso,
3 Washington, on March 22, 2014; and

4 WHEREAS, The town of Oso and the surrounding community
5 demonstrated extraordinary valiance and resiliency in the wake of
6 tragedy when the deadliest landslide in United States history hit
7 their community; and

8 WHEREAS, The destructive landslide hit the community of Steelhead
9 Haven, taking the lives of forty-three, including fifteen active or
10 retired veterans and seven children, and gravely injured four; and

11 WHEREAS, The names of the forty-three lives lost are: Alan Bejvl,
12 Delaney Webb, Marcy Satterlee, Thom Satterlee, Shelley Bellomo, Jerry
13 Logan, Julie Farnes, Adam Farnes, Gloria Halstead, Jerry Halstead,
14 Steve Harris, Theresa Harris, Christina Jefferds, Sanoah Huestis,
15 Larry Miller, Sandy Miller, John Regelbrugge III, Kris Regelbrugge,
16 Katie Ruthven, Shane Ruthven, Wyatt Ruthven, Hunter Ruthven, JuDee
17 Vandenburg, Lou Vandenburg, Billy Spillers, Kaylee Spillers, Brooke
18 Spillers, Jovon Mangual, Ron deQuillettes, Tom Durnell, Bonnie
19 Gullikson, Mark Gustafson, Steve Hadaway, Denver Harris, Amanda
20 Lennick, Linda McPherson, Joseph Miller, Stephen Neal, Michael
21 Pearson, Summer Raffo, Lon Slauson, Brandy Ward, and William Welsh;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, The force of the landslide deposited debris up to
2 seventy-five feet deep over an area of approximately one square mile
3 and caused lasting changes to the path of the North Fork
4 Stillaguamish river; and

5 WHEREAS, The immediate impacts of the slide were devastatingly
6 overwhelming, yet more than one hundred first responders from
7 Snohomish and Skagit counties worked alongside the Oso neighbors to
8 pull eight people from the debris, with seven surviving the event;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In the days following, eight hundred more responders
11 from local, state, federal, and tribal responders joined the citizens
12 of Oso, Darrington, Arlington, and the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe to work
13 through cold, rain, and quicksand-like mud for one hundred twenty-
14 three days to aid in the recovery of all forty-three bodies so that
15 each family could have peace; and

16 WHEREAS, The town of Oso and the greater Stillaguamish river
17 valley community is grateful to the first responders who sacrificed
18 their own personal safety and time to search for survivors; and

19 WHEREAS, The Oso community persevered through heartache and
20 disaster in the months that followed, giving birth to the phrase "Oso
21 Strong," a feeling, belief, and reminder that remains present along
22 the stretch of Highway 530 running through town; and

23 WHEREAS, The Washington state transportation commission renamed
24 this twenty-three mile stretch of road the "Oso Slide Memorial
25 Highway"; and

26 WHEREAS, The unwavering acts of all the responders were
27 recognized in 2015, when the governor awarded the Washington medal of
28 valor to the four communities of Oso, Arlington, Darrington, and the
29 Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, and these communities continue to be recognized
30 today by the families of the victims and survivors;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
32 honor the memory of the lives lost, the families of the lost victims,
33 the survivors of the Oso Slide, and the community response, and
34 commend the steadfast spirit of the responders who helped the
35 community recover.

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37 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
38 Resolution 4623 adopted by the House of Representatives

March 15, 2019

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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk