

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2019-4633, by Representatives Appleton, Santos, Senn, Mosbrucker, Steele, Cody, Davis, Dufault, Lovick, Shea, Wilcox, Ryu, and Kraft

1       WHEREAS, Joshua Gortler, a longtime resident of Washington State,  
2 has tirelessly shared his experiences as a Holocaust survivor with  
3 citizens of our state, especially students of all ages, in the  
4 service of truth and understanding, and has brought honor to  
5 Washington State by his visionary leadership of award-winning  
6 services to the elderly; and

7       WHEREAS, Joshua's childhood was disrupted, as a 3-year old Jewish  
8 boy, by the Nazi invasion of his Polish hometown, Tomaszow Lubelski,  
9 in 1939; and

10       WHEREAS, Joshua and his family barely escaped one of the most  
11 horrific genocides the world has ever known by fleeing across a  
12 border, finding refuge in Siberia and Uzbekistan; and

13       WHEREAS, Joshua and his family tried to return to their home town  
14 of Tomaszow but found themselves unwelcome, spent six years in  
15 displaced persons camps in Germany, and finally received visas to  
16 come to the United States in 1951; and

17       WHEREAS, After arriving in the United States as a 15-year old  
18 with no English skills and limited formal education, Joshua went on  
19 to earn his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in social work from  
20 Yeshiva University, which granted him an honorary Doctorate in 2014  
21 for his work in elder care; and

22       WHEREAS, Since 1969, Joshua has served Seattle senior citizens by  
23 building the Kline Galland Home and The Summit at First Hill into

1 award-winning facilities. Upon his retirement in 2007 as CEO of The  
2 Kline Galland Center and Affiliates, he became President of The Kline  
3 Galland Foundation to ensure the continuation of this high-quality  
4 care; and

5 WHEREAS, By volunteering as a speaker for Seattle's Holocaust  
6 Center for Humanity, Joshua is sharing with young people, including  
7 at-risk youth in detention centers in King and Kitsap Counties, his  
8 lifetime experiences as a Holocaust survivor who turned a life of  
9 hardship into a successful career as a community leader; and

10 WHEREAS, Joshua is a living survivor of the Holocaust and is a  
11 renowned humanitarian and author who understands the importance of  
12 protecting our freedoms and caring for people at risk in our society;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Joshua has dedicated his life to helping others who have  
15 experienced oppression, and conveyed the message that each person can  
16 make a positive difference in this world;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of  
18 Representatives, on behalf of the people of the State of Washington,  
19 recognize and honor the life of Joshua Gortler and his monumental  
20 contributions to the understanding of remembrance, freedom, and  
21 democracy in our State; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
23 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of  
24 Representatives to Joshua Gortler.

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