

SENATE RESOLUTION

8617

By Senators Wagoner, Padden, Holy, Hunt, Salomon, McCoy, Mullet, Wellman, Van De Wege, Brown, Walsh, Becker, Schoesler, O'Ban, Wilson, C., Palumbo, Short, Lovelett, Kuderer, Pedersen, Das, Cleveland, Dhingra, Takko, Nguyen, Ericksen, Warnick, Rivers, Hawkins, Zeiger, Liias, and Saldaña

1 WHEREAS, By an act of Congress, the birthday of President George
2 Washington has been officially observed on the third Monday of
3 February since 1971; and

4 WHEREAS, The holiday has become known as Presidents' Day, for it
5 also commemorates the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln; and

6 WHEREAS, George Washington, who was born on February 22, 1732,
7 served as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the
8 American Revolution, was elected the first President of the United
9 States in 1789, and reelected in 1792; and

10 WHEREAS, The first town to sponsor a public celebration of
11 Washington's Birthday was Richmond, Virginia in 1782, and
12 celebrations became even more popular during Washington's first term
13 in office, and after his death in 1799, Congress passed a resolution
14 calling on the nation to observe the date of his birth; and

15 WHEREAS, Unofficial celebrations carried on until 1885, when
16 action by Congress made the observance official throughout the
17 nation; and

18 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, born on February 12, 1809, was elected
19 to the Illinois State Legislature at the age of 25, served in the
20 United States House of Representatives from 1847 to 1849, and gained
21 such esteem while campaigning for the United States Senate in 1858
22 that he received the nomination for President at the Republican
23 Convention in 1860; and

1 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln's accomplishments in his first term
2 as our nation's 16th President included his Emancipation
3 Proclamation of January 1863, which freed five million slaves;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In December 1864, shortly after his reelection,
6 President Lincoln announced his plan for the Reconstruction of
7 the Nation following the Civil War; and

8 WHEREAS, In January 1865, less than three months before his
9 assassination, President Lincoln signed the Thirteenth Amendment
10 to the Constitution, which abolished slavery in the United
11 States, and which led to the Fourteenth Amendment with its
12 guarantee of civil rights; and

13 WHEREAS, President Lincoln's birthday is still observed as a
14 holiday in several states, while in the state bearing President
15 Washington's name, the Great Emancipator is remembered on
16 Presidents' Day, which also recognizes and honors all those who
17 have come after to serve in the highest office in the United
18 States;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That in celebration of
20 Presidents' Day the Washington State Senate express its
21 gratitude to all persons who have served as President for their
22 many services to our nation.

23 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
24 do hereby certify that this is a true and
25 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8617,
26 adopted by the Senate
27 February 18, 2019

28 BRAD HENDRICKSON
29 Secretary of the Senate