

SENATE RESOLUTION

8647

By Senators Sheldon, Frockt, Brown, Conway, Wellman, Nguyen, Wagoner, Kuderer, Liias, Wilson, C., and Wilson, L.

1 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma was born in Kankakee, Illinois, and grew up
2 in the rural Illinois town of Wichert; and

3 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma played college basketball at Illinois
4 Wesleyan University, a small college located in Bloomington,
5 Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, During his four seasons at Illinois Wesleyan, Jack Sikma
7 was a three-time NAIA All-American, and averaged 27 points and 15.4
8 rebounds a game as a senior; and

9 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma remains Illinois Wesleyan's all-time leading
10 scorer and rebounder, averaging 21.2 points and 13.1 rebounds; and

11 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma was drafted by the Seattle SuperSonics with
12 the eighth overall selection of the 1977 National Basketball
13 Association draft; and

14 WHEREAS, When the then-unknown Sikma was drafted, the headline
15 for a Seattle newspaper story about his selection read, "Jack Who?";
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma began the 1977-78 season as a reserve but was
18 inserted into the Sonics' starting lineup after Lenny Wilkens
19 replaced Bob Hopkins as head coach when the team began the season
20 with a 5-17 record; and

21 WHEREAS, The Sonics' revamped lineup of Jack Sikma and John
22 Johnson at forwards, Gus Williams and Dennis Johnson at guards and
23 Marvin Webster at center helped spark an amazing turnaround that

1 allowed the team to post a 47-35 regular season record and
2 playoff series wins over the Los Angeles Lakers, the defending
3 NBA champion Portland Trail Blazers and the Denver Nuggets
4 before the Sonics lost in seven games to the Washington Bullets
5 in the 1978 NBA Finals; and

6 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma was named to the NBA's 1977-78 All-
7 Rookie team; and

8 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma became the Sonics' center during the
9 1978-79 season, averaged 15.6 points and 12.4 rebounds, and
10 played in the 1979 NBA All-Star Game along with Dennis Johnson,
11 one of the seven straight All-Star games in which Sikma
12 appeared; and

13 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma, along with the rest of the team's core
14 of Gus Williams, Dennis Johnson, John Johnson, Lonnie Shelton,
15 Fred Brown, and Paul Silas, helped the Sonics return to the 1979
16 NBA Finals after defeating the Lakers and the Phoenix Suns
17 earlier in the playoffs; and

18 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma and the Sonics avenged the previous
19 year's heartbreaking loss to the Bullets, as Seattle defeated
20 Washington in five games to win the 1979 NBA Championship, with
21 Sikma scoring the final points in the Sonics' 97-93 series-
22 clinching victory on the Bullets' home court on June 1, 1979;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The Sonics' 1979 NBA Championship was Seattle's
25 first major sports title since the Seattle Metropolitans won the
26 1917 Stanley Cup; and

27 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma played with the Sonics for six more
28 seasons, helping lead the team to four playoff berths during
29 that period, before he was traded in 1986 to the Milwaukee
30 Bucks; and

31 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma played five seasons with the Milwaukee
32 Bucks, helping lead them to the playoffs in each of those
33 seasons; and

34 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma retired in 1991, ending a 14-year NBA
35 career that saw him average 15.6 points, 9.8 rebounds and 3.2
36 assists per game, and shoot 84.9 percent from the free throw
37 line; and

1 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma returned to the sideline in 2003 as an
2 assistant coach with the Sonics until 2007, followed by
3 assistant coaching jobs with the Houston Rockets and Minnesota
4 Timberwolves; and

5 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma is now a coaching consultant for the
6 Toronto Raptors; and

7 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma's Number 43 jersey was retired by the
8 Sonics, one of only six players to be so honored by the team;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma is a member of the NAIA 50th and 75th
11 All-Anniversary Teams; and

12 WHEREAS, It was recently announced that Jack Sikma is part
13 of the 2019 class that will be inducted into the Naismith
14 Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts,
15 on September 6th;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
17 Senate congratulate Jack Sikma on his selection to the Naismith
18 Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and thank Jack for his many
19 seasons as a valuable and beloved member of the Seattle
20 SuperSonics.

21 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
22 do hereby certify that this is a true and
23 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8647,
24 adopted by the Senate
25 April 18, 2019

26 BRAD HENDRICKSON
27 Secretary of the Senate