

SENATE RESOLUTION

8680

By Senators Hunt, Zeiger, O'Ban, Conway, Sheldon, Van De Wege, Wilson, C., Darneille, Becker, Takko, Cleveland, Billig, Liias, McCoy, Rivers, Wilson, L., and Kuderer

1 WHEREAS, Dennis "Denny" Lynn Heck was born in Vancouver,  
2 Washington, on July 29, 1952; and

3 WHEREAS, Denny grew up in Clark County, Washington, and graduated  
4 from Columbia River High School in Vancouver; and

5 WHEREAS, Denny attended The Evergreen State College the first  
6 year it opened and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1973;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, While at Evergreen, Denny began his career in government  
9 as an intern in the Washington State Legislature, and learned much  
10 about state government from his friend and mentor, former Senator Al  
11 Bauer; and

12 WHEREAS, Denny met Paula Fruci, a dedicated educator, and they  
13 married in 1976; and

14 WHEREAS, At the age of twenty-four, Denny was elected to the  
15 Washington State House of Representatives in 1976, representing the  
16 17th Legislative District, which included Clark, Skamania, and  
17 Klickitat Counties, and was called a wonderkind; and

18 WHEREAS, Denny served five terms in the Washington House where  
19 his peers elected him Majority Leader; and

20 WHEREAS, Denny, an ardent supporter of education, fought for the  
21 improvement of Washington's public schools as a prime author of  
22 Washington's Basic Education Act of 1977; and

1           WHEREAS, Denny was elected Chief Clerk of the Washington  
2 State House of Representatives in 1985; and

3           WHEREAS, Denny served as Governor Booth Gardner's Chief of  
4 Staff from 1990 to 1993; and

5           WHEREAS, Denny, being an extraordinary champion of open  
6 government, cofounded TVW: Washington's Public Affairs Network,  
7 which has provided Washingtonians with "gavel-to-gavel" coverage  
8 of the Legislature since 1993; and

9           WHEREAS, Denny has dedicated his life to creating  
10 educational and historical content about Washington, such as  
11 TVW's "Inside Olympia;" his one-man play "Our Times", which  
12 contemplated transformative events in Washington history; and  
13 the Emmy award-winning documentary about the Washington State  
14 Supreme Court titled *Supreme Justice*; and

15           WHEREAS, Denny and Paula provided initial funding that  
16 established the Principals' Emergency Checkbook Fund within the  
17 Olympia Schools Foundation to assist low-income students; and

18           WHEREAS, Being an alumnus and a great advocate of The  
19 Evergreen State College, he was appointed by Governor Christine  
20 Gregoire in 2009 to Evergreen's Board of Trustees where he  
21 served for two years and championed the establishment of  
22 Evergreen's Tacoma Program; and

23           WHEREAS, On November 6, 2012, Denny was elected to the  
24 United States House of Representatives as the first member of  
25 the newly created 10th Congressional District; and

26           WHEREAS, One of his first acts as a Member of Congress was  
27 spearheading the State Route 167 Completion Coalition with  
28 leaders in Pierce County; and

29           WHEREAS, In these times of sharp partisan differences in  
30 Congress, Denny has built a reputation as someone who seeks  
31 bipartisan solutions and works across the aisle on issues; and

32           WHEREAS, Denny and fellow Congressman Derek Kilmer share a  
33 residence in Washington, D.C., and are known as "The Odd  
34 Couple;" and

35           WHEREAS, Denny serves on the House Permanent Select  
36 Committee on Intelligence, overseeing elements of the United  
37 States Government's Intelligence Community and the Military  
38 Intelligence Program; and

1           WHEREAS, Denny became known for his insightful questioning  
2 and comments, especially during recent House Intelligence  
3 Committee hearings; and

4           WHEREAS, Denny has been a vocal advocate for military  
5 families and veterans, including helping a soldier receive a  
6 Purple Heart after authorities overlooked his injuries; and

7           WHEREAS, In order to create solutions to housing issues that  
8 face Washington State and the nation, Denny formed and cochaired  
9 the New Democrat Coalition Housing Task Force, helped pass the  
10 Reverse Mortgage Stabilization Act of 2013, and introduced the  
11 Build More Housing Near Transit Act and the Fulfilling the  
12 Promise of the Housing Trust Fund Act; and

13           WHEREAS, Denny has fought to restore and preserve  
14 Washington's beautiful Puget Sound, cofounding the Puget Sound  
15 Recovery Caucus, introducing the Promoting United Government  
16 Efforts to Save Our Sound Act, and introducing the Green  
17 Stormwater Infrastructure Financing Investment; and

18           WHEREAS, Denny honored Billy Frank Jr. through the  
19 sponsorship of the Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act, which  
20 renamed the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge after the late  
21 Native American environmental and civil rights activist; and

22           WHEREAS, Denny fought for the financial interests of his  
23 constituents as the only member from the Pacific Northwest on  
24 the Committee on Financial Services and led the reauthorization  
25 of the job-creating Export-Import Bank; and

26           WHEREAS, During his time in the United States House of  
27 Representatives, he has prioritized building the economy and  
28 fighting for the middle class; and

29           WHEREAS, Denny is a member of the New Democratic Coalition,  
30 a caucus of House Democrats favoring economic growth and  
31 innovation; and

32           WHEREAS, After forty-five years of service to the people of  
33 Washington State, Denny announced that he will not seek  
34 reelection in 2020; and

35           WHEREAS, Denny plans to spend more time at his longtime home  
36 in Olympia with his beloved wife of nearly forty-four years,  
37 Paula; his sons, Bob and Trey; his grandchild, Maleah; and his  
38 family and friends; and

1           WHEREAS, Denny will now have more time to engage in some  
2 favorite, but neglected, activities like watching all the movies  
3 he wants, writing, and sharpening his pinochle skills (which  
4 need some work); and

5           WHEREAS, Denny and Paula should have enough frequent flyer  
6 miles from all those weekly transcontinental flights to travel  
7 where and when they want;

8           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
9 Senate honor the outstanding career of Denny Heck and express  
10 admiration for his work and dedication to the citizens of the  
11 State of Washington; and

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
13 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to  
14 Congressman Denny Heck and members of his family.

15 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,  
16 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
17 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8680,  
18 adopted by the Senate  
19 February 17, 2020

20 BRAD HENDRICKSON  
21 Secretary of the Senate