

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-4622, by Representative Robertson

1       WHEREAS, It is the policy of the Washington State Legislature to  
2 recognize excellence in service to this great state of Washington;  
3 and

4       WHEREAS, The occasion of June 8, 2021, marks 100 years of  
5 excellence in service to the great state of Washington by the  
6 Washington State Patrol and its direct predecessor, the Highway  
7 Patrol Division, of the Department of Efficiency, created on June 8,  
8 1921; and

9       WHEREAS, The Washington State Patrol traces its distinguished  
10 history to the dawn of the automobile era and the commissioning of a  
11 small number of highway patrolmen on September 1, 1921, as motorcycle  
12 officers of the Highway Patrol, whose broad responsibilities included  
13 enforcement of all motor vehicle and transportation laws; and

14       WHEREAS, In the early part of this century, the leaders of  
15 Washington state had the insight and foresight to recognize the  
16 increasing and indispensable role that intrastate and interstate  
17 transportation would have on the economic well-being of this great  
18 state and nation; and as such, the state of Washington was the eighth  
19 state in these United States to establish and create a state patrol;  
20 and

21       WHEREAS, The Washington State Patrol's duties and service to the  
22 citizens of Washington state have increased dramatically since its  
23 founding to include many diverse facets of law enforcement, such as

1 commercial vehicle enforcement, narcotics enforcement, seven crime  
2 laboratories, fire protection and training services, cybercrime  
3 investigation, homeland security, ferry vessel and terminal safety,  
4 capitol campus security, and executive protection, as well as  
5 antiterrorism coordination with all local, state, federal, and  
6 international law enforcement partners; and

7 WHEREAS, The Washington State Patrol has now grown to be one of  
8 the largest and most respected law enforcement agencies in the United  
9 States with over 2,200 commissioned and civilian employees, 43 canine  
10 officers, a response fleet of more than 1,600 vehicles, as well as  
11 airplanes, the country's largest unmanned aerial vehicle fleet, and a  
12 host of other specialized response units patrolling and protecting  
13 over 18,000 lane miles of Washington roadway every day; and

14 WHEREAS, The Washington State Patrol members, current and  
15 retired, who have come to be known as "troopers" and are easily  
16 distinguishable with their award-winning winter uniforms dating to  
17 the mid-1930's, which include a bow tie and campaign hat, are first  
18 and foremost the highest quality law enforcement officers, who by  
19 their selfless and courageous service risk their very lives so that  
20 our homes, families, and communities will be safe; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to Washington's troopers, there are hundreds  
22 of technical professionals who deliver outstanding, comprehensive  
23 services in support of troopers in the field, as well as directly to  
24 citizens in their time of need; notably, the communications officers,  
25 crime scene response team members, crime laboratory personnel,  
26 vehicle mechanics, communications technicians, facility repair  
27 personnel, records custodians, deputy fire marshals, and many other  
28 professionals in their field; and

29 WHEREAS, In 1995, Washington State Patrol's Annette M. Sandberg  
30 made history when she was appointed the first female chief of a state  
31 police organization in the nation. Today, the Washington State Patrol  
32 is led by Chief John R. Batiste, who is the 21st chief and first  
33 Black appointee, who continues the tradition of innovation,  
34 excellence, and courageous "service with humility" to the citizens of  
35 Washington state;

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
37 honor the highest level of excellence in service to this great state  
38 of Washington by the troopers and employees alike, current and  
39 retired, of the Washington State Patrol; and

1       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
2 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of  
3 Representatives to the Chief of the Washington State Patrol.

--- END ---