

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4637, by Representatives Leavitt and Taylor

1 WHEREAS, Dr. John Utendale broke barriers throughout his life,
2 first in professional hockey, and then in higher education in
3 Washington state; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Utendale was the first black man to sign an NHL
5 contract, and played for years for a number of teams such as the
6 Quebec Aces and the Edmonton Flyers; and

7 WHEREAS, During his playing days, he began his studies and earned
8 his teaching certificate, later teaching junior high math, science,
9 and physical education; and

10 WHEREAS, While playing full time for the Spokane Jets, Dr.
11 Utendale earned his master's degree from Eastern Washington
12 University; and

13 WHEREAS, Washington State University recruited Dr. Utendale to
14 serve as Assistant Dean of Students, and during his time there he
15 earned his doctorate in education while teaching, coaching Little
16 League Baseball, and serving on the Washington State Human Rights
17 Commission; and

18 WHEREAS, He then joined Western Washington University as its
19 first black faculty member of the College of Education, leading the
20 university's Student Personnel Administration graduate program for
21 more than 25 years as well as serving other roles such as head of the
22 Higher Education Administration; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Utendale helped create the Bellingham Area Minor
2 Hockey Association, coached the WWU Vikings hockey club, and served
3 as an assistant training coach to the United States Olympic hockey
4 team that won gold at the Lake Placid Olympics; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Utendale died of cancer in 2006, but his life serves
6 as an example of how one person can make a difference in many areas
7 including as a teacher, coach, mentor, and trailblazer;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
9 honor the life and legacy of Dr. John Utendale; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
11 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
12 Representatives to the family of Dr. John Utendale.

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