

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4659, by Representatives Morgan, Wicks, Pollet, Fitzgibbon, Senn, Sells, and Leavitt

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Ester Wilfong committed his life to educating the  
2 children of Washington state, serving as a sixth-grade teacher in  
3 Central Kitsap schools from 1952 to 1959; and

4           WHEREAS, From 1959 to 1982 Mr. Wilfong served as a teacher and  
5 administrator in Tacoma Public Schools; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. Wilfong continued his service after retirement by  
7 mentoring the next generation of school principals; and

8           WHEREAS, As a teacher, Mr. Wilfong was popular with his students,  
9 developing a well-earned reputation as an excellent faculty leader;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, Between 1968 and 1969, Mr. Wilfong served as the  
12 President of the Washington Education Association; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Wilfong served on the Board of Directors, including  
14 as a member of the Executive Committee for the National Education  
15 Association; and

16           WHEREAS, In 1982 Mr. Wilfong joined the Washington State School  
17 Retirees Association leading efforts to improve the lives of senior  
18 citizens; and

19           WHEREAS, Mr. Wilfong was an active member of the Tacoma Urban  
20 League, Tacoma Philharmonic, NAACP, Metropolitan Development Council,  
21 Washington State Human Rights Commission, Tacoma Volunteer Bureau,  
22 Goodwill Business Advisory Council, and Minority Concerns Task Force,  
23 and Chair of the Tacoma Planning Commission; and

1       WHEREAS, Mr. Wilfong traveled Pierce County registering citizens  
2 to vote, later to be named Educator Citizen of the Year by Tacoma  
3 Public Schools; and

4       WHEREAS, Mr. Wilfong achieved all his success in spite of  
5 barriers from explicit racism, having been dismissed from his first  
6 teaching job due to the color of his skin;

7       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
8 recognize Mr. Ester Wilfong for his service, dedication, and  
9 commitment to the people of Washington state; 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 Mr. Ester Wilfong.

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14               I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of  
15               Resolution 4659 adopted by the House of Representatives  
16   February 25, 2022

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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk