

SENATE RESOLUTION

8622

By Senators Hobbs, King, Billig, Braun, Brown, Carlyle, Cleveland, Conway, Darneille, Das, Dhingra, Dozier, Ericksen, Fortunato, Frockt, Gildon, Hasegawa, Hawkins, Holy, Honeyford, Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Liias, Lovelett, McCune, Mullet, Muzzall, Nguyen, Nobles, Padden, Pedersen, Randall, Rivers, Robinson, Rolfes, Saldaña, Salomon, Schoesler, Sheldon, Short, Stanford, Van De Wege, Wagoner, Warnick, Wellman, Wilson, C., Wilson, J., and Wilson, L.

1 WHEREAS, Mr. David Brian Ward was a proud Michigander turned
2 proud Minnesotan who graduated from the University of Minnesota; and

3 WHEREAS, David had an industrious career, working in the
4 financial industry in Taiwan and with refugee communities in the
5 United States, before working at the Washington State Office of
6 Financial Management; and

7 WHEREAS, David began his Senate career as a revenue analyst for
8 the Senate Transportation Committee in October of 2004, before
9 serving as the committee's budget coordinator in 2008, and later
10 transferring to the Joint Transportation Committee in 2019; and

11 WHEREAS, David worked with five different committee chairs during
12 his tenure on the Senate Transportation Committee, enjoying a
13 reputation as a brilliant nonpartisan and bicameral staffer; and

14 WHEREAS, David traveled to all ends of the state as part of a
15 transportation revenue package listening tour in 2014 to learn the
16 statewide significance of the SR 522 Snohomish River Bridge, the US
17 12 Wildcat Bridge, the US 2 Trestle, the SR 14 Bingen Overpass, the
18 I-82 Red Mountain Interchange, and various stoplights along SR 9 in
19 Snohomish county; and

20 WHEREAS, David assisted members in the development and perfection
21 of strategies to finance some of the most difficult and expensive
22 public works projects in the history of civilization, such as the

1 world's largest deep bore tunnel and the world's longest
2 floating bridge; and

3 WHEREAS, David provided members with his wisdom to deliver a
4 balanced 10 year, 12 year, or 16 year transportation budget
5 depending on how terrible the state's gas tax collections were
6 in a given year; and

7 WHEREAS, David oversaw transportation budget negotiations
8 for the Senate each session and was known to provide helpful
9 nonpartisan advice to members like "You can't spend the money
10 twice, Senator,"; and

11 WHEREAS, Staff and members alike were mesmerized by David's
12 preternatural command of the audio-visual equipment known as the
13 Wardistrator 5000 that he used to educate, entertain, and enrich
14 members while developing a transportation budget; and

15 WHEREAS, David served as a generous mentor to new staff and
16 elected members of the Senate Transportation Committee,
17 imparting his humor, positivity, and wisdom onto them; and

18 WHEREAS, David was known for meticulously researching the
19 best places to eat and drink during legislative tours of
20 transportation projects, and while he did not participate in
21 karaoke, he did offer his colleagues encouragement and critiques
22 of their performances; and

23 WHEREAS, David was respected by members, staff, and the
24 lobbying community alike for his humility, dedication, and
25 talent; and

26 WHEREAS, In 2020, David was diagnosed with a medical
27 condition that would test him severely and David fought
28 valiantly with love and support from many, but ultimately his
29 battle concluded when he died at his Thurston county home on
30 August 17, 2020; and

31 WHEREAS, David leaves behind a legacy of excellence and
32 service as a model public servant; and

33 WHEREAS, David did some of his best work in the Senate
34 Transportation Committee conference room as he ably assisted
35 members and staff in directing the development of the state
36 transportation budget, and as such we shall forever refer to
37 room 318 in the John A. Cherberg building as the "David Ward

1 Senate Transportation Committee Conference Room," or what is
2 affectionately known to his friends as the "Ward Room"; and

3 WHEREAS, Although David would be deeply and humbly opposed
4 to the passage of this resolution, David's tireless commitment
5 to the state of Washington cannot go unrecognized;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That this resolution is
7 offered in memory of our friend and colleague David Brian Ward
8 and in honor of his legacy throughout the Washington State
9 Transportation system; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
11 express its deepest gratitude for the 16 years of service given
12 to the Legislature, and for the many more years of service given
13 to our state government and his greater community by Mr. David
14 Ward; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
16 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to
17 David's mother, Ruth Ward-Gross, David's partner, Alison Riffer,
18 the Senate Transportation Committee, and Senate Committee
19 Services.

20 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
21 do hereby certify that this is a true and
22 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8622,
23 adopted by the Senate
24 April 6, 2021

25 BRAD HENDRICKSON
26 Secretary of the Senate