

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-4633, by Representative Stonier

1 WHEREAS, Former Representative James Carl (Jim) Moeller was a
2 native of Vancouver who spent more than two decades in elected
3 office, serving two terms as a Vancouver City Council member and 14
4 years as a state representative from Washington's 49th legislative
5 district; and

6 WHEREAS, Jim was a proud graduate of Fort Vancouver High School,
7 Washington State University, and the Mark Hatfield School of
8 Government at Portland State University; and

9 WHEREAS, He used his education in a career as a social worker,
10 behavioral health counselor, and chemical dependency counselor,
11 helping others to overcome significant hurdles and lead full, free
12 lives; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2002, as he approached the end of his second four-
14 year term on the Vancouver City Council, Jim looked north toward
15 Olympia and, after a successful campaign, was sworn in for the first
16 of his seven two-year terms representing his southwest Washington
17 friends and neighbors in the Washington State House of
18 Representatives; and

19 WHEREAS, During the last three of those seven two-year terms in
20 the Legislature, Jim served as Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of
21 Representatives, a leadership position to which he was elected by the
22 full membership of the House; and

1 WHEREAS, In his position as Speaker Pro Tem, he presided over an
2 estimated 80 percent of the House floor debates and votes that
3 occurred from 2011 to 2016, gaining a reputation for wielding the
4 gavel with impartiality, respect for the institution and its elected
5 members, and a deep concern for the integrity of the legislative
6 process; and

7 WHEREAS, In addition to his duties as Speaker Pro Tem, which
8 earned him the affectionate nickname of "Mr. Speaker," Jim played a
9 part in developing and passing some of the most significant pieces of
10 legislation enacted during his tenure in the House, serving as a
11 member of the House committees on Rules, Transportation, Labor &
12 Workforce Development, Community and Economic Development & Trade,
13 and, appropriately given his lifelong career, Healthcare & Wellness;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Jim worked throughout much of his legislative tenure to
16 make progress on replacing the aging bridge on Interstate 5 linking
17 Washington and Oregon; and

18 WHEREAS, His dedication to his community and his state was
19 apparent in countless ways, including service as cochair of the Joint
20 Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs, cochair of the Senate/House
21 Joint Taskforce on Public Health Financing, honorary board member of
22 the Big Brothers/Big Sisters, vice chair of the Association of
23 Washington Cities, member of the YWCA Diversity Task Force, founding
24 member of Clark County Pride, and a founding member of Hands Off
25 Washington, and many others; and

26 WHEREAS, Jim was a proud gay man who worked tirelessly in the
27 Legislature and in his private life to help Washingtonians realize
28 the goal of marriage equality which became the law of the land on
29 December 6, 2012; and

30 WHEREAS, Jim was himself the target of discrimination based on
31 his choosing to live a life of public service as an out gay man, but
32 never lost his conviction that government was his highest calling,
33 often reminding others of President John F. Kennedy's quote, "Let the
34 public service be a proud and honorable profession"; and

35 WHEREAS, Jim Moeller, "Mr. Speaker," with his ever-present bow
36 tie, gentle smile, and twinkling eye, was himself an institution
37 within the institution of government that he loved, served, and
38 improved in countless ways;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
2 of Representatives honor former Representative Jim Moeller as well as
3 his dedication and service to the citizens of Washington State.

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