

SENATE RESOLUTION

8632

By Senator Short

1 WHEREAS, A century of camping at Camp Gifford on Deer Lake in
2 Stevens County offers a chance to reflect on the importance of
3 mentorship and ministry in the lives of young people; and

4 WHEREAS, The Salvation Army Corps of Spokane acquired the
5 property in 1920 or 1921, and began operating summer camps at the
6 site in the mid-1920s under the name Camp Cougar; and

7 WHEREAS, The camp grew from a 20-acre campground of simple tents
8 and open fires to a complex of A-frame cabins with indoor plumbing,
9 as well as a dining hall, a mini golf course, an infirmary,
10 waterfront facilities, docks, and boats; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1998 the camp grew to 140 acres when an adjacent
12 undeveloped parcel was purchased, offering a wilderness camping
13 experience for teens; and

14 WHEREAS, The Salvation Army originally operated the summer camp
15 programs, offering programs for 120 children or more during 10 weeks
16 of the summer; and

17 WHEREAS, The Salvation Army changed its business plan in the
18 1990s, renting the camp to churches, nonprofit groups, and retreat
19 organizations, and made improvements allowing the camp to remain open
20 in winter; and

21 WHEREAS, The Salvation Army rents the facility to 40 to 50 groups
22 each year and operates the camp with commitment and resolve, making

1 it an important amenity for the area and for organizations in
2 that part of the state; and

3 WHEREAS, The camp's importance to the region was recognized
4 in 1997 when reconstruction efforts were assisted by the state
5 and federal AmeriCorps program through Educational Service
6 District 101; and

7 WHEREAS, Camp Gifford continues to thrive after a century of
8 operation and has become an institution of great importance to
9 the life and culture of the Inland Northwest, due to support
10 from community organizations, churches, and public entities that
11 have come together to contribute to its success;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
13 Senate recognize the profound impact Camp Gifford has had in the
14 lives of children and teenagers throughout the region, offering
15 them lessons in leadership, teamwork, and foundational values,
16 buttressed with faith, fueled by inspiration, and underscored by
17 the natural beauty of the surrounding environment; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
19 immediately transmitted to Spokane Salvation Army Citadel Corps
20 and to the Camp Gifford administrative offices, with the hope
21 that Camp Gifford will continue to exert a positive influence in
22 the lives of young people in the future.

23 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
24 do hereby certify that this is a true and
25 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8632,
26 adopted by the Senate
27 March 30, 2023

28 SARAH BANNISTER
29 Secretary of the Senate