

SENATE RESOLUTION

8654

By Senators Hasegawa and Wagoner

1           WHEREAS, After earning his wings in December 1943, United States  
2 Army Air Forces veteran Captain Richard "Dick" Alan Nelms served in  
3 the European Theater during World War II as a Boeing B-17 Flying  
4 Fortress copilot and pilot, assigned to the 447th Bomb Group, 8th Air  
5 Force, based in Rattlesden, England; and

6           WHEREAS, Dick Nelms flew 35 missions into Germany, France, and  
7 other Nazi-occupied territories, sustaining battle damage in 25 of  
8 those missions, and helped write and plan food and supply drops to  
9 the Marquis Freedom Fighters in France and others; and

10           WHEREAS, Dick Nelms has earned numerous valor awards for his  
11 service, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, five Air Medals,  
12 the Presidential Unit Citation, and the French Legion of Honor Medal;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, Following the war, Dick Nelms established a successful  
15 freelance commercial art business, including a job with the King  
16 county library system in the 1970s, and served as an art director for  
17 the next 45 years in the Seattle area; and

18           WHEREAS, Dick Nelms was commissioned in 1967 to create a new  
19 Washington state seal insignia, selecting a Gilbert Stuart portrait  
20 of George Washington for the design, which was accepted and made the  
21 official state seal by the legislature; and

22           WHEREAS, Since starting as a Museum of Flight volunteer in March  
23 2016, Dick Nelms has regularly engaged with thousands of museum

1 visitors from around the world, sharing how he and his comrades  
2 dealt with fear and other realities of war and his pride for  
3 "putting a dent in Hitler's war machine;" and

4 WHEREAS, As a museum volunteer, Dick has gone out into the  
5 community and across the United States to share his knowledge  
6 and wartime experience with numerous organizations, including  
7 schools, museums, community centers, Joint Base Lewis-McChord,  
8 and at the Air Force Ball celebrating the 70th anniversary of  
9 the United States Air Force; and

10 WHEREAS, On February 17, 2023, Dick Nelms celebrated his  
11 100th birthday at the Museum of Flight;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington state  
13 Senate recognize and honor Mr. Dick Nelms for his significant  
14 contributions to our state and country.

15 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,  
16 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
17 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8654,  
18 adopted by the Senate  
19 January 16, 2024

20 SARAH BANNISTER  
21 Secretary of the Senate