

SENATE RESOLUTION

8635

By Senators Angel, O'Ban, Wilson, Warnick, Schoesler, Brown, Walsh, Braun, Becker, Short, Rossi, Fortunato, Bailey, Fain, Hobbs, Conway, and Darneille

1 WHEREAS, Melanie J. Dressel was born in Colville, Washington  
2 where her father owned a jewelry store and was Chief of the volunteer  
3 fire department; and

4 WHEREAS, Melanie attended the University of Washington, and  
5 graduated with a political science degree; and

6 WHEREAS, After graduating, Melanie went to work at the Bank of  
7 California in Tacoma, where she worked for 14 years; and later moved  
8 to Puget Sound National Bank, where she directed the private banking  
9 division; and

10 WHEREAS, Melanie was part of the original team that founded  
11 Columbia Bank in 1993; and, in 1997, Melanie was promoted to  
12 Executive Vice President of retail banking where she directed the  
13 bank's branch network and its operations, investments, private  
14 banking, and marketing/communications divisions; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2000, Melanie was appointed as Columbia Bank's  
16 President; and, in 2003, Melanie became Columbia Bank's Chief  
17 Executive Officer; and

18 WHEREAS, Under Melanie's leadership, Columbia Bank grew from one  
19 branch to over one hundred forty branches in Washington, Oregon, and  
20 Idaho; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2011, Melanie was honored as Community Banker of the  
22 Year by *American Banker Magazine* and has been named one of "The  
23 Most Powerful Women in Banking" by the magazine seven times; and

1           WHEREAS, Melanie served on several boards, including the  
2 Boards of Puget Sound Energy (Chair), Executive Council for a  
3 Greater Tacoma (past Chair), Washington Bankers Association  
4 (past Chair), Washington Roundtable, and the Washington State  
5 Historical Society; and

6           WHEREAS, Melanie also served on the American Bankers  
7 Council, the ABA Grassroots Committee, the Bellarmine  
8 Benefactors' Trust, and was a member of the Federal Reserve Bank  
9 of San Francisco's Community Depository Institutions Advisory  
10 Council (CDIAC); and

11           WHEREAS, At home, Melanie showed her devotion to her family  
12 by sending weekly cookie packages to her family, and by flying  
13 to California on weekends to watch her son play football for  
14 Humboldt State University; and

15           WHEREAS, Despite her many commitments, Melanie always found  
16 time to make full Sunday dinners for her family, where she  
17 enjoyed playing with her grandkids; and

18           WHEREAS, Melanie is survived by her husband, Bob; adult  
19 sons, Robert and Brent; and two grandchildren;

20           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
21 Senate honor Ms. Melanie J. Dressel and remember her successful  
22 career and devotion to her family.

23 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,  
24 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
25 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8635,  
26 adopted by the Senate  
27 April 19, 2017

28 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
29 Secretary of the Senate