

SENATE RESOLUTION

8666

By Senators Parlette, Fraser, Angel, Pearson, McCoy, Liias, Rolfes, Fain, Dansel, King, Chase, Kohl-Welles, Conway, and Roach

1 WHEREAS, It is the custom and tradition of the Washington State  
2 Senate to recognize the contributions of individuals who reflect the  
3 standards of excellence that advance the well-being and quality of  
4 life of all citizens of the State of Washington; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Bonita "Bonnie" Henderson has been a key figure in  
6 the Senate Page Program for 30 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Bonnie first came to the Senate while raising three  
8 teenagers and actively participating in her local Parent Teacher  
9 Association, where she helped to run football game concession stands,  
10 worked as a dance chaperone, and volunteered for a variety of other  
11 school and after-school events; and

12 WHEREAS, Bonnie, every week of every session since 1986, has been  
13 directly responsible for a group of young people ranging in number  
14 from twelve to as large as forty-two; and

15 WHEREAS, Bonnie guided excited, nervous Pages through  
16 orientation, daily work schedules, a labyrinth of offices, accidents,  
17 sickness, teenage angst, protests, and an earthquake; and

18 WHEREAS, Bonnie supervised Pages performing a myriad of tasks  
19 both large and small, during what was for many young people their  
20 first "real" job and for others their first time away from home; and

21 WHEREAS, The scope of a Page's daily duties has changed over the  
22 years--Pages were once dispatched early each morning to deliver some  
23 1,200 documents, including calendars, status sheets, and meeting

1 schedules, across the capitol campus to every Senate office, the  
2 Senate Chamber, Ulcer Gulch, and other public areas; today, many  
3 of these documents are delivered online or through email,  
4 available at the touch of a button; and

5 WHEREAS, Bonnie, each week, made every effort to instill in  
6 each Page a sense of the value of hard work, good manners,  
7 professionalism, promptness, and even good posture and, most  
8 importantly, the importance of the legislative process to our  
9 great state; and

10 WHEREAS, Bonnie has personally managed, mentored, and  
11 mothered an estimated 7,500 students, some of whom were inspired  
12 by their experience as a Page to such a degree that they  
13 returned to the Legislature as interns, lobbyists, staff, and  
14 even legislators; and

15 WHEREAS, Bonnie has seen former Pages bring their children  
16 to the Capitol to be Pages, and on her trips around the state  
17 frequently encounters former Pages who recognize her from their  
18 time in the Program; and

19 WHEREAS, Washington's legislative page programs, which  
20 constitute one of the two most comprehensive programs of their  
21 kind in the United States, have received several awards for  
22 their contributions to civic education, including the *Kevin B.*  
23 *Harrington Award* from the National Conference of State  
24 Legislatures in 2012 and the *Youth Civic Education Award* from  
25 the Seattle City Club in 2013; and

26 WHEREAS, Bonnie has decided, after thirty successful  
27 sessions of supervising young people from across the state, to  
28 retire from Senate service; and

29 WHEREAS, As Page Supervisor, Bonnie has been firm but fair,  
30 demanding yet giving, sometimes stern yet always supportive,  
31 with a constant desire to find special ways to enhance the  
32 week's experience for each group of Pages, all with a steady  
33 hand and ready smile that will be sorely missed;

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
35 Senate recognize and honor Mrs. Bonita "Bonnie" Henderson for  
36 thirty years of gracious and selfless dedication to the Senate,  
37 to students placed in her care, and to their families across  
38 Washington State; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
2 offer its gratitude to Bonnie, Jerry Henderson, and the  
3 Henderson family for sharing Bonnie with the Senate,  
4 congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement, and hereby  
5 bestow upon her the title, "Page Mom Emeritus."

6 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,  
7 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
8 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8666,  
9 adopted by the Senate  
10 April 22, 2015

11 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
12 Secretary of the Senate