

SENATE RESOLUTION
8650

By Senators Keiser, Kohl-Welles, Holmquist Newbry, King, Conway, Pridemore, Tom, Nelson, Shin, Kilmer, McAuliffe, Sheldon, Eide, Haugen, Harper, Regala, Fraser, White, Rockefeller, Ranker, Kline, Chase, Prentice, Murray, Roach, Hobbs, Hatfield, and Fain

WHEREAS, On April 28, 1971, the United States created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, an agency created for the sole purpose of protecting workers from injury and death; aptly, April 28th has been observed in the United States as Workers' Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, Since 1989, Workers' Memorial Day has been recognized throughout the State of Washington, throughout the nation, and around the globe as a day to mourn and show reverence to those who have perished as a result of work-related accidents; and

WHEREAS, Annually in Washington State, as many as 100 women and men's lives are claimed by illness, disease, and traumatic injuries obtained on the job; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Washington State saw a dramatic rise in the number of occupational fatalities from the previous year with a total of 86 reported fatalities; nearly half of these tragic events involve machinery or motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, The sudden, unexpected, and at times violent, nature of these events leaves behind a wake of immense pain and suffering for the families, friends, and colleagues of the fallen; and

WHEREAS, The emotional impact and financial toll of extreme economic hardship due to associated medical and funeral costs, a loss of household income, and any unpaid debts leave an indelible mark upon those left behind; and

WHEREAS, While Workers' Memorial Day is a paramount opportunity to mourn such loss, it is not merely a day to grieve loved ones that have been victim to occupational hazards, it is also a day to reflect on the often preventable nature of these injuries, illnesses, diseases, and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Workers' Memorial Day is a chance for business, labor, and government to reflect on how continued cooperation and diligent prevention efforts can significantly reduce workplace catastrophes; and

WHEREAS, Observing Workers' Memorial Day gives our communities and Washington State an opportunity to join together to pay our respects to the fallen and to rededicate ourselves to the mission of safe and healthy work environments for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate honor Workers' Memorial Day as a day to remember those who have fallen on the job and those who have suffered as a result; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate commemorate the 22nd anniversary of Workers' Memorial Day.

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8650,
adopted by the Senate
April 11, 2011

THOMAS HOEMANN
Secretary of the Senate