

SENATE RESOLUTION
8640

By Senators Jarrett, McAuliffe, and Fraser

WHEREAS, The greater Seattle area is home to over 45 video game companies, making the video game industry in Washington one of the largest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Holkins, a comic writer, and Mike Kraulik, a cartoonist and artist, both originally from Spokane, Washington, collaborated to create an online comic about video games called Penny Arcade in the fall of 1998; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Holkins and Mike Kraulik recently celebrated the comic's 10th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Jerry Holkins and Mike Kraulik launched the first annual Penny Arcade Expo, a gaming festival in Bellevue, Washington; and

WHEREAS, By 2008, the Penny Arcade Expo has grown to become the largest game convention in the United States, with over 58,500 video game enthusiasts attending the Penny Arcade Expo at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in August 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Penny Arcade Expo attracts thousands of tourists from around the globe to visit the city of Seattle while attending the convention, and has served to further reinforce Seattle's status as a leading locale of the game industry; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Jerry Holkins and Mike Kraulik created the Child's Play Charity, an organization which raises contributions of money and toys to donate to Children's Hospitals worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Child's Play Charity has raised over 4.5 million dollars for sixty different Children's Hospitals since it was established, including Washington's own Seattle Children's and Sacred Heart Children's Hospitals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate officially recognize the accomplishments of Jerry Holkins and Mike Kraulik in becoming widely accepted leaders in the computer and video game industries, encouraging industry growth through scholarships, and advancing Washington State as a hub of the gaming industry through the presence of Penny Arcade Expo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor Jerry Holkins and Mike Kraulik for their hard work and dedication to improving the lives of hospitalized children worldwide through their creation and continued work with Child's Play Charity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Jerry Holkins and Mike Kraulik.

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8640,
adopted by the Senate
March 5, 2009

THOMAS HOEMANN
Secretary of the Senate