

SENATE RESOLUTION

8648

By Senators Keiser, Nelson, Palumbo, Hunt, Zeiger, McCoy, Conway, Rivers, Miloscia,
and Fain

1 WHEREAS, On June 21, 1947, Tacoma resident Harold Dahl and his
2 son allegedly sighted six flying discs over Puget Sound near Vashon-
3 Maury Island, an event now commonly known as "The Maury Island
4 Incident"; and

5 WHEREAS, On June 22, 1947, Mr. Dahl alleges he was warned not to
6 talk about what he saw by a man dressed in a black suit; and

7 WHEREAS, On June 24, 1947, pilot Kenneth Arnold alleges he saw
8 nine unidentified flying objects ("UFO's") near Mt. Rainier; and

9 WHEREAS, These controversial sightings helped launch a pop
10 culture phenomenon of UFO sightings across the United States during
11 the summer of 1947, which became known as "The Summer of the
12 Saucers"; and

13 WHEREAS, On August 8, 1947, two weeks after the Washington
14 sightings, a UFO is alleged to have crashed outside Roswell, New
15 Mexico, and this alleged crash has since become the most well-known
16 alleged UFO incident in history; and

17 WHEREAS, On August 1, 1947, Army Air Corp Intelligence Officers
18 Capt. William L. Davidson and 1st Lt. Frank M. Brown, who interviewed
19 Harold Dahl about his sighting, lost their lives when the B-25 Bomber
20 they were piloting crashed outside of Kelso, Washington; and

21 WHEREAS, Following the tragic deaths of Davidson and Brown,
22 Harold Dahl publicly claimed his sighting at Maury Island was a hoax;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
2 conducted an investigation of the deaths of Davidson and Brown and
3 ultimately concluded that Dahl did not recant his story but that his
4 claim of hoax was itself a fabrication to avoid further public
5 attention and ridicule; and

6 WHEREAS, The FBI's conclusions and Dahl's secret were sealed for
7 fifty years; and

8 WHEREAS, The Maury Island Incident and its surrounding
9 circumstances have made immeasurable contributions to Washington
10 State's cultural heritage and to popular culture worldwide, including
11 most recently the 2014 award-winning motion picture "The Maury Island
12 Incident," and the 2015 web series "The Maury Island Incident,"
13 produced in conjunction with the Washington FilmWorks Innovation Lab
14 and Motion Picture Competitiveness Program; and

15 WHEREAS, On April 1, 2017, the 3rd Annual Burien UFO Festival
16 will be held in the newest hipster hangout of downtown Olde Burien
17 with wide community participation and good humor; and

18 WHEREAS, On the seventieth anniversary of the seminal UFO
19 sightings events, the Washington State sightings should be recognized
20 for both their prominence and primacy in the modern era of UFO
21 popular culture;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
23 pause to acknowledge the seventieth anniversary of the June 21, 1947,
24 Maury Island Incident; the 1947 "Summer of the Saucers" popular
25 culture phenomenon launched worldwide by these controversial events;
26 and the first reference to the characters now popularly known as "men
27 in black"; and

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
29 recognize and honor the heroism and service of Army Air Corp
30 Intelligence Officers Capt. William L. Davidson and 1st Lt. Frank M.
31 Brown, who lost their lives following their investigation of the
32 Maury Island Incident when their airplane crashed outside of Kelso,
33 Washington, on August 1, 1947; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
35 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Air
36 Force Historical Research Agency, to the Vashon-Maury Island Heritage
37 Association, to the Des Moines Historical Society, to the Highline
38 Historical Society, to the Burien Historical Society, to the

1 Longview-Kelso Historical Society, and to the Washington State
2 Historical Museum.

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