

---

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8403**

---

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Hunt

1       WHEREAS, Joan Benoit Samuelson is a legendary athlete and a  
2 pioneer of women's long-distance running; and

3       WHEREAS, The historic first-ever Women's Olympic Marathon Trials  
4 were held in Olympia, Washington, on May 12, 1984; and

5       WHEREAS, The finish line for the marathon trials route was at  
6 Marathon Park, on the Washington State Capitol Campus; and

7       WHEREAS, Joan qualified for the 1984 Olympics by winning with a  
8 blistering time of 02:31:04, in spite of undergoing knee surgery just  
9 two weeks prior; and

10       WHEREAS, Joan went on to win the Olympic Gold Medal at the first-  
11 ever Women's Olympic Marathon in Los Angeles in 1984 in a stunning  
12 victory, beating the 1983 World Champion Grete Waitz of Norway  
13 comfortably by more than a whole minute; and

14       WHEREAS, Joan set the women's world marathon record and the  
15 United States women's marathon record on four occasions; and

16       WHEREAS, Joan won the 1979 and 1983 Boston Marathons and at the  
17 1983 race set the women's course and World Record at 2:22:43, a time  
18 that stood as the course record for 11 years; and

19       WHEREAS, Joan was deemed the nation's premier amateur athlete by  
20 being awarded the prestigious Amateur Athletic Union James E.  
21 Sullivan Award in 1985; and

22       WHEREAS, Joan won the 1985 Chicago Marathon in a time of 2:21:21  
23 setting the American Record which stood for 18 years; and

1       WHEREAS, Joan is a 1999 inductee into the International Women's  
2 Sports Foundation Hall of Fame and was voted into the Olympic Hall of  
3 Fame in 2008; and

4       WHEREAS, Joan wrote *Running Tide* and *Running for Women* to provide  
5 advice and encourage other women runners; and

6       WHEREAS, Joan continues to contribute to the sport of running by  
7 participating in marathons, coaching cross-country and long-distance  
8 athletes, sports commentating, and serving as a motivational speaker;  
9 and

10       WHEREAS, Joan supports local communities through her involvement  
11 in events such as the 2004 Bloomsday 12K Run in Spokane, Washington,  
12 where she was designated Honorary Race Director; and

13       WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Joan has a long history of  
14 community and civic involvement including founding the Beach to  
15 Beacon 10k Road Race to benefit children's charities; and

16       WHEREAS, Joan has reached out to at-risk youth, Boys and Girls  
17 Clubs, and young athletes of all backgrounds with an inspiring "can-  
18 do" message; and

19       WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature wishes to honor Joan  
20 Benoit Samuelson with a lasting memorial to her perseverance and  
21 dedication to running; and

22       WHEREAS, Marathon Park earned its name when the City of Olympia  
23 competed for, and won, the right to host the United States time  
24 trials for the first Women's Olympic Marathon in 1984;

25       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of  
26 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, that Marathon  
27 Park be renamed Joan Benoit Samuelson Marathon Park in celebration of  
28 the 35th Anniversary of the Women's Olympic Marathon Trials; and

29       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Enterprise  
30 Services properly sign the park as "Joan Benoit Samuelson Marathon  
31 Park"; and

32       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
33 forwarded to Joan Benoit Samuelson; the Honorable Jay Inslee,  
34 Governor of the State of Washington; and Chris Liu, Director of the  
35 Department of Enterprise Services.

--- END ---