

SENATE RESOLUTION

8629

By Senators Schoesler, Hunt, Wellman, Das, Takko, Cleveland, Becker, Mullet, Dhingra, Frockt, Wilson, C., Saldaña, Kuderer, Pedersen, Hobbs, Conway, Billig, Liias, Carlyle, McCoy, Brown, Hasegawa, King, Nguyen, Short, Rolfes, Lovelett, Darneille, Van De Wege, Keiser, Sheldon, Fortunato, O'Ban, Rivers, Walsh, Padden, Honeyford, Bailey, Wagoner, Zeiger, Wilson, L., and Warnick

1       WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez was born in New York City on January 2,  
2 1963, grew up playing baseball with his brother and neighborhood  
3 friends in Dorado, Puerto Rico, and attended American College in  
4 Puerto Rico; and

5       WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez was 19 years old when he signed with the  
6 Seattle Mariners as an amateur free agent in 1982; and

7       WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez rose from a graveyard-shift laborer in  
8 Puerto Rico to one of the most outstanding hitters in major league  
9 history; and

10       WHEREAS, When Edgar Martinez was a skinny 20-year-old with the  
11 Mariners' Class A team in Bellingham in 1983, he hit only .173 and  
12 was better known for his glove than his bat; and

13       WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez endured several more seasons in the  
14 minors before he made his major league debut in 1987; and

15       WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez became Seattle's everyday third baseman  
16 in 1990 and responded by hitting .302 that season and .307 in 1991;  
17 and

18       WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez made his American League All-Star debut  
19 in 1992, a season in which he was crowned American League batting  
20 champion with a .343 average; and

21       WHEREAS, A badly pulled hamstring in a 1993 preseason exhibition  
22 game in Vancouver, B.C., caused Edgar to miss most of that season and

1 forced him to transform himself from an able third baseman into  
2 arguably the greatest designated hitter in history; and

3 WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez helped keep baseball alive in  
4 Seattle in 1995 by delivering the biggest hit in Mariners'  
5 history, a game-winning double ripped down the left-field line  
6 in the bottom of the 11th inning of the fifth and final game of  
7 the American League Divisional Series against the New York  
8 Yankees, knocking in Joey Cora and Ken Griffey Jr. and resulting  
9 in the most famous and enduring moment in Mariners' history, as  
10 teammates mobbed Griffey at the plate after he slid home with  
11 the series-winning run while a sold-out King Dome crowd roared  
12 with joy; and

13 WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez became a fan favorite throughout the  
14 Northwest and a team icon as a result of his loyalty and  
15 dedication to the Mariners and the Northwest, his quiet team  
16 leadership, his humble, friendly, and pleasant demeanor, his  
17 powerful bat, and his funny TV ads for the Mariners and Eagle  
18 Hardware - "It's a light bat"; and

19 WHEREAS, Mariners' fans often showed their love and respect  
20 for Edgar Martinez by serenading him with chants of  
21 "Edddd...Grrrrr" before or after one of his at-bats; and

22 WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez gained even more respect and  
23 admiration from fans throughout the region for his willingness  
24 to give back to the community through charities and other  
25 activities, which is evidenced by his winning the 2004 Roberto  
26 Clemente Award for outstanding baseball skills and devotion to  
27 the community; and

28 WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez is revered for his many  
29 contributions to the community, including to Seattle Children's  
30 Hospital, Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, Overlake Hospital,  
31 Make-A-Wish Foundation, Wishing Star Foundation, United Way,  
32 Esperanza, Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program, Big Brothers  
33 Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and Mariners Care;  
34 and

35 WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez defined the position of designated  
36 hitter, setting the major league record for home runs and RBIs  
37 by a DH, and is the only designated hitter in the history of  
38 baseball to win a batting title, hitting .356 in 1995; and

1           WHEREAS, Major League Baseball Commissioner Allan H. "Bud"  
2 Selig paid fitting tribute to Edgar Martinez's remarkable status  
3 as the most prolific designated hitter in the history of Major  
4 League Baseball when he announced on October 2, 2004, that the  
5 American League Designated Hitter of the Year Award had been  
6 officially renamed "The Edgar Martinez Award"; and

7           WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez retired at the end of the 2004  
8 season with the same team with which he began, a rarity among  
9 major league ballplayers, ending his 18-year career with a .312  
10 batting average, 309 home runs, 1,261 runs batted in and 2,247  
11 hits, including 514 doubles; and

12           WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez is one of nine players to retire  
13 with a .300+ batting average, 500 doubles, 300 home runs, 1,000  
14 walks, and a .400+ on-base percentage - an on-base percentage  
15 better than the great Stan Musial; and

16           WHEREAS, Edgar had his number 11 retired by the Mariners,  
17 and it hangs in left field alongside Jackie Robinson's 42 and  
18 Ken Griffey Jr.'s 24; and next to Edgar's Cantina in T-Mobile  
19 Park; and

20           WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez Drive is located next to the  
21 stadium; and

22           WHEREAS, After retiring as a player, Edgar Martinez returned  
23 to Mariners' dugout by serving as the team's hitting coach from  
24 the middle of the 2015 season until the end of the 2018 season,  
25 and is now in a hitting adviser role for the Mariners  
26 organization; and

27           WHEREAS, On January 22, 2019, Edgar Martinez was inducted  
28 into the Baseball Hall of Fame, becoming the second player to  
29 enter the Hall of Fame as a Seattle Mariner, joining Ken Griffey  
30 Jr.; and

31           WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez and fellow 2019 inductees Mariano  
32 Rivera, Roy Halliday, Mike Mussina, Lee Smith, and Harold Baines  
33 will be formally added to the Baseball Hall of Fame during a  
34 ceremony in Cooperstown, New York, on July 21, 2019; and

35           WHEREAS, Edgar Martinez batted .652 against 2019 unanimous  
36 Hall of Fame reliever Mariano Rivera while all other Hall of  
37 Fame hitters batted .236 against him; and

1           WHEREAS, Rivera said of Martinez, "Thank God he retired. Oh  
2 my God, I think every pitcher will say that because this man was  
3 tough;"

4           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
5 Senate honor and congratulate Edgar Martinez on being elected to  
6 the Baseball Hall of Fame and again thank him for his amazing  
7 career with the Seattle Mariners and for giving so much back to  
8 the team's fans and to the community.

9           I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,  
10 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
11 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8629,  
12 adopted by the Senate  
13 April 1, 2019

14           BRAD HENDRICKSON  
15           Secretary of the Senate