

SENATE RESOLUTION

8647

By Senators Sheldon and Frockt

1 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma was born in Kankakee, Illinois, and grew up  
2 in the rural Illinois town of Wichert; and

3 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma played college basketball at Illinois  
4 Wesleyan University, a small college located in Bloomington,  
5 Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, During his four seasons at Illinois Wesleyan, Jack Sikma  
7 was a three-time NAIA All-American, and averaged 27 points and 15.4  
8 rebounds a game as a senior; and

9 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma remains Illinois Wesleyan's all-time leading  
10 scorer and rebounder, averaging 21.2 points and 13.1 rebounds; and

11 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma was drafted by the Seattle SuperSonics with  
12 the eighth overall selection of the 1977 National Basketball  
13 Association draft; and

14 WHEREAS, When the then-unknown Sikma was drafted, the headline  
15 for a Seattle newspaper story about his selection read, "Jack Who?";  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma began the 1977-78 season as a reserve but was  
18 inserted into the Sonics' starting lineup after Lenny Wilkens  
19 replaced Bob Hopkins as head coach when the team began the season  
20 with a 5-17 record; and

21 WHEREAS, The Sonics' revamped lineup of Jack Sikma and John  
22 Johnson at forwards, Gus Williams and Dennis Johnson at guards and  
23 Marvin Webster at center helped spark an amazing turnaround that

1 allowed the team to post a 47-35 regular season record and playoff  
2 series wins over the Los Angeles Lakers, the defending NBA champion  
3 Portland Trail Blazers and the Denver Nuggets before the Sonics lost  
4 in seven games to the Washington Bullets in the 1978 NBA Finals; and

5 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma was named to the NBA's 1977-78 All-Rookie  
6 team; and

7 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma became the Sonics' center during the 1978-79  
8 season, averaged 15.6 points and 12.4 rebounds, and played in the  
9 1979 NBA All-Star Game along with Dennis Johnson, one of the seven  
10 straight All-Star games in which Sikma appeared; and

11 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma, along with the rest of the team's core of  
12 Gus Williams, Dennis Johnson, John Johnson, Lonnie Shelton, Fred  
13 Brown, and Paul Silas, helped the Sonics return to the 1979 NBA  
14 Finals after defeating the Lakers and the Phoenix Suns earlier in the  
15 playoffs; and

16 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma and the Sonics avenged the previous year's  
17 heartbreaking loss to the Bullets, as Seattle defeated Washington in  
18 five games to win the 1979 NBA Championship, with Sikma scoring the  
19 final points in the Sonics' 97-93 series-clinching victory on the  
20 Bullets' home court on June 1, 1979; and

21 WHEREAS, The Sonics' 1979 NBA Championship was Seattle's first  
22 major sports title since the Seattle Metropolitans won the 1917  
23 Stanley Cup; and

24 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma played with the Sonics for six more seasons,  
25 helping lead the team to four playoff berths during that period,  
26 before he was traded in 1986 to the Milwaukee Bucks; and

27 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma played five seasons with the Milwaukee Bucks,  
28 helping lead them to the playoffs in each of those seasons; and

29 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma retired in 1991, ending a 14-year NBA career  
30 that saw him average 15.6 points, 9.8 rebounds and 3.2 assists per  
31 game, and shoot 84.9 percent from the free throw line; and

32 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma returned to the sideline in 2003 as an  
33 assistant coach with the Sonics until 2007, followed by assistant  
34 coaching jobs with the Houston Rockets and Minnesota Timberwolves;  
35 and

36 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma is now a coaching consultant for the Toronto  
37 Raptors; and

38 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma's Number 43 jersey was retired by the Sonics,  
39 one of only six players to be so honored by the team; and

1       WHEREAS, Jack Sikma is a member of the NAIA 50th and 75th All-  
2 Anniversary Teams; and

3       WHEREAS, It was recently announced that Jack Sikma is part of the  
4 2019 class that will be inducted into the Naismith Memorial  
5 Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts, on September  
6 6th;

7       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
8 congratulate Jack Sikma on his selection to the Naismith Memorial  
9 Basketball Hall of Fame and thank Jack for his many seasons as a  
10 valuable and beloved member of the Seattle SuperSonics.

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