



RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF**

Ralph Munro

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro graduated from Western Washington University in 1966, and while at Western, he served as the student body President, where his leadership and advocacy for student rights and campus engagement laid the groundwork for generations of civic-minded student leaders; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro was recognized by the University as a Distinguished Alumnus and later received an Honorary Doctoral Degree, honors that reflect his extraordinary contributions to public life and his deep and abiding connection to the Western community; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro had family roots at Western Washington University, as his Scottish-born grandfather was a stonemason who helped build Old Main, which opened in 1896; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro was appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire as a Trustee in 2009 and served on the Board of Trustees until 2015, during which time he was a vocal proponent of access, equity, and excellence in higher education and worked tirelessly to ensure Western's continued growth and prominence; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro championed the liberal arts and civic engagement, frequently returning to campus to speak with students, guest lecture in classrooms, and provide mentorship and guidance to emerging leaders; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro played a pivotal role in establishing and supporting the Ralph Munro Institute for Civic Education at Western Washington University, which serves as a living legacy to his belief in the power of informed citizenship and democratic participation, and promotes the civil exchange of ideas, encouraging students to understand and engage with differing political viewpoints as a vital part of a healthy democracy; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro's lifelong commitment to public service, environmental stewardship, and the rights of individuals with disabilities reflected the values he helped instill in the University's culture and curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro strengthened the University's reputation and relationships at the state and national levels, often serving as an informal ambassador for Western and demonstrating how alumni can shape public life with integrity and purpose; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro played a vital role in garnering legislative support for expanding Western's presence on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas, helping to increase access to higher education for place-bound and underserved students, and advancing the University's commitment to regional engagement and educational equity; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro will be remembered not only as Washington's longest-serving Secretary of State, but as a statesman of uncommon humility, generosity, and devotion to the public good—an exemplar of the kind of leadership Western strives to cultivate in all its students; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University that the life, service, and enduring legacy of Ralph Munro are hereby honored, with profound appreciation for his immeasurable contributions to the University, the state of Washington, and the cause of civic engagement and education.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University at its meeting on June 13, 2025.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faith Li Pettis".

Faith Li Pettis, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Witherspoon".

Chris Witherspoon, Vice Chair