

PROPOSED AFT WASHINGTON RESOLUTION 2025-03

1 In Commemoration of Frank Chopp

2 **WHEREAS:** Frank Chopp was the longest serving Speaker of the House in Washington
3 state history; and

4 **WHEREAS:** As a student at Bremerton's East High School in the early 70s, he led a
5 protest against the Elks Club's refusal to allow Black members; and

6 **WHEREAS:** Before graduating Magna Cum Laude at the University of Washington in
7 1975, he was involved with efforts to preserve low-income housing; and

8 **WHEREAS:** Long before rich billionaires did it, Chopp built (and lived in!) a geodesic
9 sphere in South Lake union to raise awareness about the need for
10 housing; and

11 **WHEREAS:** After graduating, he held positions with several community groups, such
12 as the Cascade Community Center and the Pike Market Senior Center,
13 before eventually becoming the executive director of the Fremont Public
14 Association, now renamed as Solid Ground; and

15 **WHEREAS:** In this position at the FPA, he promoted services such as an emergency
16 food bank, a clothing bank, and an employment program; and

17 **WHEREAS:** After first being elected to the legislature in 1994, Chopp ascended to the
18 Speakership in 1999; and

19 **WHEREAS:** He helped to start the Low Income Housing Institute and the Seattle
20 Tenants Union; and

21 **WHEREAS:** He always made himself available to meet with AFT Washington
22 leadership and members, providing strategic insights and other support
23 for our efforts, for example, when Seattle Central College threatened to
24 close four workforce development programs in 2022; and

25 **WHEREAS:** He played a pivotal role in initiating significant state programs such as
26 Apple Health for Kids, Seattle Worker Center, The Education Legacy Trust
27 Fund, The Workforce Education Investment Act, and was a key player in
28 the passage of countless prominent progressive laws; therefore, be it

29 **RESOLVED:** That AFT Washington commemorate the tremendous impact of
30 Representative Frank Chopp in advancing economic, social and racial justice, mourn this loss to our
31 communities, and, in the words of Mother Mary Jones, continue to fight like hell for the living as
32 Frank Chopp would want us to do.

☐ *Adopted*

Adopted as amended:

☐ By Committee

☐ By Convention

☐ By Executive Board

☐ *Defeated*

☐ *Tabled*