

IN THE SENATE

SENATE PROCLAMATION NO. 103

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A PROCLAMATION

1 HONORING AND COMMENDING ROSE CLAIRE HART WETHERELL FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE  
2 TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO AND FOR HER HUMANITARIAN AND  
3 PHILANTHROPIC ENDEAVORS.  
4

5 We, the members of the Senate of the State of Idaho assembled in the  
6 Second Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, honor and commend  
7 Rose Claire Hart Wetherell.

8 WHEREAS, South Dakota native Claire Wetherell studied at the University  
9 of California at Berkeley and earned her associate's degree after which she  
10 returned to the Midwest to complete her nursing training at the Sisters of  
11 Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa. With her degree in hand, she went on  
12 to serve her country as a U.S. Navy nurse during World War II where she met  
13 her future husband, Robert Miles Wetherell, while stationed in Bremerton,  
14 Washington; and

15 WHEREAS, she moved to her husband's home town of Mountain Home, Idaho,  
16 in 1946, and worked as a nurse in the community including several years as  
17 the area's primary healthcare provider following the departure of the town's  
18 only doctor; and

19 WHEREAS, following World War II she became the Director of the USO that  
20 served the men and women of the U.S. Air Force stationed in Mountain Home and  
21 then later spent 16 years on the Idaho Veterans Affairs Commission including  
22 four years as the chairperson; and

23 WHEREAS, she was instrumental in the passage of a bond that led to the  
24 1955 construction of the Elmore County Hospital (now the Elmore Medical Cen-  
25 ter). Here she continued her work as a nurse and also served for two years as  
26 president of the hospital auxiliary, which honored her with their lifetime  
27 achievement award in 2006; and

28 WHEREAS, Claire was the first woman to serve as president of the Moun-  
29 tain Home Chamber of Commerce, was vice chair of the state Democratic party  
30 from 1962 to 1972 and helped establish the Business and Professional Women's  
31 group in Mountain Home; and

32 WHEREAS, the lifelong Catholic and member of the Our Lady of Good Coun-  
33 sel Parish who served two terms as president of the Altar Society and was a  
34 member of the Legion of Mary and was named the Idaho Catholic Woman of the  
35 Year in 1989; and

36 WHEREAS, Claire became the first woman to serve on the Mountain Home  
37 City Council, a post she maintained for eight years, and where she was the  
38 first female president of the Council; and

39 WHEREAS, she served in the Idaho State Senate for 12 years (1983-1984,  
40 District 22; 1987-1992, District 12; 1993-1996, District 20) including ser-  
41 vice on the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee and where her late hus-  
42 band, Bob Wetherell, also served (1951-52, 1955-64); and

1           WHEREAS, she devoted herself to her family and raised four beloved  
2 children including son Dennis and daughter Ellen, who both died prematurely.  
3 Claire's son Michael E. Wetherell is the Administrative District Judge for  
4 the Fourth Judicial District and her son Robert T. Wetherell has been an  
5 attorney in private practice in the city of Boise since 1982; and

6           WHEREAS, Claire continuously advocated for parks for Mountain Home,  
7 where in 2006 she was honored with a park named for her and given a lifetime  
8 key to the city. Upon receiving this honor, she revealed her deep sense of  
9 humor by remarking that she was afraid they would change the locks after the  
10 award was given; and

11           WHEREAS, her dedication and service to her faith, her family, her commu-  
12 nity and the state of Idaho has been unwavering.

13           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the members of the Senate assembled  
14 in the Second Regular Session of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, that we rec-  
15 ognize and honor the life and achievements of Rose Claire Hart Wetherell and  
16 we extend to her the appreciation and gratitude of the Senate for her service  
17 to the State of Idaho, and, in particular, her service to Idaho's veterans  
18 and the legislative branch of our state government.