Item No.2(a)

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

COMMENDATION

Whereas: Hugh Burleson grew up in Southern California during the Great Depression, was drafted into the U. S. Army and was sent, closely following the end of World War II, to serve in the Allied Occupation of Japan; and

Whereas: While in Japan, Hugh met and, overcoming the challenges of military regulations and U.S. immigration laws, married his wife Kimie and returned to the United States; and

Whereas: Resuming his interrupted education at the University of California at Berkeley, Hugh received a Master's degree in Asian Studies and began a career as a Foreign Service Officer in the U. S. Information Agency, serving in Washington D.C., Japan and elsewhere in Asia, and retired after thirty-seven years of federal service; and

Whereas: Hugh became an ambassador for cross-cultural understanding and an active participant in Bellevue's Japanese American community, spearheading Bellevue's former Japan Week, volunteering for the Matsuri Festival, and playing a major leadership role in the Bellevue Sister City Association, where he served for over thirty years, ten as its President; and

Whereas: Hugh recently authored his memoir, *The Making of a Pacific Citizen*, which details his life, passion for Japan, and his belief that "public diplomacy advances America's interests abroad"; and

Whereas: Hugh Burleson will long be remembered for his gentlemanly manner and his commitment, compassion, leadership, and hard work to foster Japanese/ American and other cross-cultural relations;

Now, therefore, I, Claudia Balducci, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of the City Council, do this 16th day of June, in the year 2014, hereby commend

Hugh Burleson

for his leadership, dedication, and service to the Bellevue Sister City Association and to the community. His service to our city and our nation provides an example for others to emulate and demonstrates the difference that one individual can make.

Claudia Balducci
Mayor