

## Enrolled

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 19

Sponsored by Senator WHITSETT, Representative RILEY; Senators ATKINSON, AVAKIAN, BATES, BEYER, BROWN, BURDICK, CARTER, COURTNEY, DECKERT, DEVLIN, FERRIOLI, G GEORGE, L GEORGE, GORDLY, JOHNSON, KRUSE, METSGER, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, MORRISSETTE, MORSE, NELSON, PROZANSKI, SCHRADER, STARR, VERGER, WALKER, WESTLUND, WINTERS, Representatives BARKER, BARNHART, BEYER, BONAMICI, BOONE, BOQUIST, BRUUN, BUCKLEY, BURLEY, BUTLER, CAMERON, CANNON, CLEM, COWAN, DALLUM, DINGFELDER, C EDWARDS, D EDWARDS, ESQUIVEL, GALIZIO, GARRARD, GELSER, GILLIAM, GILMAN, GIROD, HOLVEY, JENSON, KOTEK, KRIEGER, KRUMMEL, LIM, MACPHERSON, MAURER, MERKLEY, MORGAN, NATHANSON, NELSON, NOLAN, OLSON, READ, RICHARDSON, ROBLAN, ROSENBAUM, SCHAUFLER, SCOTT, SHIELDS, G SMITH, TOMEI, WHISNANT, WITT

Whereas Leslie (Les) Schwab, a native son of Oregon, was born in Bend, Oregon, on October 3, 1917, and passed away on May 18, 2007; and

Whereas Les Schwab began his schooling in a railroad boxcar at Brooks-Scanlon's central Oregon logging camp; and

Whereas Les Schwab, orphaned at age 15, supported himself and his siblings by delivering the Oregon Journal newspaper; and

Whereas Les Schwab's efficiency and tenacity resulted in his eventual takeover of all nine newspaper routes in Bend; and

Whereas Les Schwab found the determination to complete his education and graduated from Bend High School in 1935; and

Whereas Les Schwab married his high school sweetheart, Dorothy Harlan, and was the father of two children, Harlan and Margaret; and

Whereas Les Schwab served his country honorably with the Air Cadets in World War II; and

Whereas upon his return from the war, Les Schwab spent nine years in Bend as the circulation manager of The Bulletin; and

Whereas Les Schwab began his business ventures in 1952 with his purchase of the franchise shop O.K. Rubber Welders in Prineville for \$11,000; and

Whereas in 1956 Les Schwab separated from the franchise and changed the store name to Les Schwab Tire Centers, eventually expanding into seven states, with 410 stores and sales in 2006 in excess of \$1.6 billion; and

Whereas J.D. Power and Associates for four consecutive years ranked Les Schwab Tire Centers as the best national passenger vehicle and light truck tire retailer in customer satisfaction; and

Whereas Les Schwab was awarded the national Dealer of the Year by Modern Tire Dealer magazine in 2000; and

Whereas Les Schwab survived the death of his son, Harlan, who was the 31-year-old vice president of Les Schwab Tire Centers when he was killed in an automobile accident in 1971; and

Whereas Les Schwab survived the death of his daughter, Margie Denton, who had served as chairperson of Les Schwab Tire Centers and who passed away in 2005; and

Whereas Les Schwab suffered a heart attack and was forced to give up day-to-day operations of the company but continued to come to work every day; and

Whereas Les Schwab understood that his employees were his company's greatest asset; and

Whereas Les Schwab created the Les Schwab Retirement Trust, putting aside 15 percent of his employees' earnings into an employee trust fund account; and

Whereas Les Schwab, outraged at the cost of liability insurance, decided to self-insure his company; and

Whereas the employee benefits that Les Schwab offered, such as no-premium medical coverage for his employees and their families, were second to none; and

Whereas Les Schwab shared generously with employees through the employee profit share program; and

Whereas Les Schwab valued and rewarded the principles of self-reliance and loyalty; and

Whereas Les Schwab's company was invaluable for its stabilization of the economy of Prineville, Oregon, after the loss of the timber industry; and

Whereas Les Schwab gave back to his community in countless ways; and

Whereas when Les Schwab passed away May 18, 2007, his wife Dorothy and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren were at his side; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, express our gratitude for Les Schwab's years of service to Oregon's business economy, for the profound substance of his work, for his belief in his employees and love of the customer, for the lasting effect his efforts and service will have on the industries of Oregon and for the extraordinary example he has set for all Oregonians who endeavor to serve their communities and their employees through entrepreneurship; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Les Schwab's wife, Dorothy, and to their grandchildren, Diana, Alan, Leslie and Julie.

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Adopted by Senate June 11, 2007

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Secretary of Senate

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President of Senate

Adopted by House June 20, 2007

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Speaker of House