

SCR 24 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/13, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Memorializes Lewis Linn McArthur (1917-2018).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lew McArthur's life, leadership, and contributions to the state of Oregon
- Loss of iconic Oregonians, and members of "The Greatest Generation"

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Lewis Linn McArthur was born in Portland on May 22, 1917, graduated from Lincoln High School in 1934, and later from the University of California at Berkeley with an undergraduate degree in economics, then worked for the Columbia Steel Company. He served in the United States Army during World War II, including duty in the Aleutian Islands. He discharged from service in 1945 at the rank of major, and was later promoted to lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. In 1946, Lew McArthur married Joyce Abigail Clark, and they raised a family of four children and two grandchildren. From 1946 to 1986, Lew McArthur was a construction executive for the Ray F. Becker Company in Portland, specializing in light steel construction. In 1970, Oregon Governor Tom McCall appointed him to the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, and he served in that capacity until 1981. He had a prominent role in the restoration of the Columbia River Highway from the early days of that project, and he served as chairman of the Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee. He was also a member of the Oregon Geographic Names Board from 1958 to 2006, and followed in his father's footsteps documenting the place names of this state by compiling and publishing the landmark reference book, *Oregon Geographic Names*. Also like his father, Lew McArthur made generous and significant contributions to our understanding of Oregon's history, and he was responsible for preparing the fourth (1974), fifth (1982), sixth (1992), and seventh (2003) editions of this beloved and classic book. The seventh edition of *Oregon Geographic Names* contains an astounding 6,252 entries, covering every nook and cranny of the state, from A B Crossing to Zwagg Island. Lew McArthur believed that place names are integral to our understanding of history and to how we think of our own localities, and his daughter, Mary McArthur, is continuing the family tradition by working on the forthcoming eighth edition of *Oregon Geographic Names*. Lew McArthur was a longtime member of the Oregon Historical Society, the American Name Society and the Canadian Society for the Study of Names, and in 2005, the American Association for State and Local History recognized him with a merit award for individual achievement. He was an avid mountaineer who climbed many of North America's highest peaks, and a longtime member of the American Alpine Club and the Alpine Club of Canada. Lew McArthur enjoyed traveling around Oregon and, in the words of his daughter Mary, he loved "the whole idea of being connected to our history and the people."

Lew McArthur passed away on August 29, 2018. He is and will continue to be remembered as a Renaissance man with rare intellectual gifts, who embraced technology and innovation but was captivated by the past. He left an indelible mark on the State of Oregon through his devoted efforts to ensure that our place names reflect the authentic history of Oregon, including the history of Native Americans.

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Senate Concurrent Resolution 24 expresses the Eightieth Legislative Assembly's gratitude for Lew McArthur, celebrates his life and accomplishments, and honors his contributions, with deepest sympathy and respect on behalf of the people of the State of Oregon.