

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Recognizes and honors artistic and civic contributions of Michael A. Gibbons.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

1

2 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons, a self-described “poet with a paintbrush,”
3 was born in Portland, Oregon, on December 18, 1943, to Millard and Virginia
4 Gibbons; and

5 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons is proud to be a native-born Oregonian
6 whose family is deeply rooted in the state—his mother’s descendants having
7 arrived in Oregon by covered wagon in 1865 and his father’s family having
8 arrived later in the 19th century; and

9 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons began painting with oils while still in ele-
10 mentary school, and he attended Benson Polytechnic High School in
11 Portland, Oregon; and

12 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons, at the age of 16, became the youngest per-
13 son invited to join the Oregon Society of Artists; and

14 Whereas after graduating from high school and serving a three-year tour
15 in the United States Air Force, Michael A. Gibbons invested in a small
16 manufacturing firm and worked as a designer of specialty automotive parts;
17 and

18 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons, at the age of 25, left his job in Portland
19 and relocated to the Oregon Coast to pursue painting full time; and

20 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons’ oil paintings of the Oregon coast and sur-
21 rounding areas established his reputation for depicting the natural world

1 with deep sensitivity and reverence; and

2 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons became intimately familiar with the hills,
3 meadows, estuaries and wildlife of the Yaquina River region, and his
4 paintings show a penchant for the interplay of light and colors; and

5 Whereas although Michael A. Gibbons' most meaningful art was created
6 in and around the community he calls home, he visited many other locations
7 to gain additional inspiration, including Washington, California, Arizona,
8 Florida, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, England, Scotland, Ireland, France and
9 Mexico; and

10 Whereas the ocean has been a constant source of inspiration for Michael
11 A. Gibbons, and his seascapes are among his most vital works; and

12 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons' work has been featured in dozens of exhi-
13 bitions in the United States and Europe, the most recent being the "Yaquina
14 Exhibition" at the LaSells Stewart Center at Oregon State University in the
15 summer of 2019; and

16 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons married the former Judith "Judy"
17 Mortenson in 1988, and their partnership transcends life, love and art to
18 become a true union of soul and spirit; and

19 Whereas Michael A. and Judy Gibbons are longtime residents and civic
20 leaders in Toledo, Oregon, and they have always been intrigued by the town's
21 history and setting amid the naturally beautiful Yaquina River region, seeing
22 Toledo as a place where art can flourish; and

23 Whereas Michael A. and Judy Gibbons' tireless promotion of Toledo as
24 a creative hub led to the creation of the Art Walk on Labor Day, which in
25 2018 celebrated 25 years of showcasing the work of artists who depict the
26 area's natural beauty; and

27 Whereas with his own hands, Michael A. Gibbons restored the neglected
28 complex of structures on Northeast Alder Street that became the focal point
29 of Toledo's unique artistic community; and

30 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons saved "The Vicarage," next door to St.
31 John's Episcopal Church, from dereliction in the 1980s, and it became the

1 Gibbons' home and gallery; and

2 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons' studio in Toledo was built in 1887 as a
3 Methodist church and later was used as a funeral home before he acquired
4 it in 1992; and

5 Whereas the two-story building that now houses the Yaquina River Mu-
6 seum of Art, which Michael A. and Judy Gibbons founded in 2002, also dates
7 from 1887; and

8 Whereas with his fondness for machinery, Michael A. Gibbons became
9 proficient at painting industrial scenes, especially factories and ports, and
10 he was commissioned by Gunderson Marine in Portland to depict the
11 company's barges and railcar facilities; and

12 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons also painted the Georgia-Pacific
13 containerboard mill on the Yaquina River in Toledo, and his 1985 painting
14 of the mill proved so popular that a framed print of it is given to retiring
15 mill employees; and

16 Whereas two of Michael A. Gibbons' original oil paintings, "Arnold Creek
17 Estuary" and "Don Gray Country," are on display in the Governor's official
18 residence in Salem, Oregon; and

19 Whereas the late United States Senator Mark Hatfield said of Michael
20 A. Gibbons: "This man has taken a land we all know and love and given it
21 back to us in a form we can understand"; and

22 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons is a signature member of the Oil Painters
23 of America and the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association, and he also is a
24 member of the Allied Artists of America, the Copley Society of Art and
25 Christians in the Visual Arts; and

26 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons is a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic
27 Church in Newport, Oregon, and the Knights of Columbus; and

28 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons has four stepchildren, Vicky Ross, Michael
29 Ross, Randy Ross and Stephen Ross, a sister, Laurie Gibbons, a niece,
30 nephew, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; now, therefore,

31 **Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:**

1 That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Eightieth
2 Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor the artistic and civic contribu-
3 tions of Michael A. Gibbons, and we express our gratitude for his contribu-
4 tions to the State of Oregon.

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