

HCR 205 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes former Mayor of Salem Mike Swaim for his dedicated service to the City of Salem and the State of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

On December 17, 2019, the Honorable Mike Swaim, who served three terms as Mayor of the City of Salem, passed away at the age of 76. Mike Swaim was a deeply respected leader who made Oregon his home and loved his community for both its history and its future and worked actively to improve the quality of life for all. Mike and his wife Kellie, his high school sweetheart and partner in life, without whom many of his accomplishments would not have been possible, made many sacrifices and were together devoted to always doing their best for those they served while remaining true to their core values.

Mike Swaim was not afraid to speak up and had the courage to stand by his convictions all while working across party lines, building coalitions, and earning the respect of his opponents. Mike always sought to lift those around him, to serve through dedicated and transparent leadership, and to engage in the community with love and understanding. He boldly and successfully fought to save the ancient old growth forest and mighty waterfalls of Opal Creek, forever preserving this treasure for all to enjoy.

As the Mayor of Salem, Mike Swaim championed the city's livability while promoting smart growth and valuing community initiatives that could be enjoyed by all segments of the population including development of the Salem Convention Center, Marion Square Skateboard Park, Salem Riverfront Park, creation of the Salem Outreach Shelter, and founding of Salem Self-Help Housing. Mike also spearheaded the passage of city ordinances that prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and fostered the creation of the Salem Peace Plaza and Peace Wall, was founder of the Community Coalition for Affirmative Action, and was a founding member of the Dorothy Patch/Nellie Thompson Scholarship Fund.

House Concurrent Resolution 205 recognizes former Mayor of Salem Mike Swaim for his dedicated service to the City of Salem and to the State of Oregon.