

## HCR 30 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Rules

---

**Prepared By:** Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 5/18

---

#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Recognizes and honors Beverly Cleary for her lifetime achievements in literature and her contributions to Oregon culture.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Beverly Cleary was born Beverly Atlee Bunn on April 12, 1916, in McMinnville, Oregon, to Chester Lloyd Bunn and Mable Atlee Bunn. She grew up on a farm in the town of Yamhill, Oregon until she moved to Portland, Oregon with her family.

Beverly Cleary's mother introduced her daughter to books through a lending program she arranged with the Oregon State Library and she overcame her initial struggles with reading and came to love reading. Beverly Cleary noticed that few books were relevant to her childhood or to children in her community, so she decided to write children's books that universally appealed to children.

Beverly Cleary earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a master's degree in library science from the University of Washington. She worked at the Multnomah County Library in the Central Library branch as a young adult and was an ardent supporter of and donor to the Multnomah County Library throughout her life.

Beverly Cleary married Clarence T. Cleary in 1940, and was the mother of two children, Malcolm and Marianne, who became the inspirations for her characters Mitch and Amy. Beverly Cleary served her country as a post librarian at the United States Army Hospital in Oakland, California from 1942 to 1945.

Beverly Cleary published her first book, *Henry Huggins*, in 1950. She created such beloved and iconic characters as Henry Huggins, Ramona Quimby, Beezus Quimby, Ellen Tebbits, Ribsy, Ralph S. Mouse, Socks, and many others. She published more than four dozen books over a five-decade career; more than 85 million copies of her books have been sold; her books have been translated into at least 29 languages; and her books have been adapted into film and television productions.

Beverly Cleary is regarded as a master and beloved storyteller who revolutionized the way that children's books are written. She received numerous honors and awards, including the National Medal of Arts, National Book Award, American Library Association's Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, Association for Library Service to Children's Newbery Medal, Newbery Honor Book recognition, Children's Book Council's Everychild Award, Catholic Library Association's Regina Medal, University of Southern Mississippi's Silver Medallion, and the Los Angeles Times' Robert Kirsch Award. She was the United States author nominee for the Hans Christian Andersen Award in 1984. Beverly Cleary's books have won more than 35 reader-nominated state awards and in 2000, she was named a "Living Legend" by the Library of Congress for her creative contributions to the cultural heritage of the United States.

## HCR 30 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

In 1988, Beverly Cleary published a memoir, *A Girl from Yamhill*, about her childhood in Oregon. She based her books in Portland and elsewhere in Oregon. The Beverly Cleary School in the Grant Park neighborhood of Portland was named in her honor and in recognition of her connection to the school and her upbringing in the neighborhood. The Beverly Cleary Sculpture Garden in Grant Park honors the references to the park and the surrounding neighborhood in her books. The Multnomah County Library has installed numerous memorials in recognition of Beverly Cleary's connections to Portland and in honor of her accomplishments and contributions to literature, including naming the Beverly Cleary Children's Library in the Central Library branch in her honor. Readers around the world observe Drop Everything and Read Day (D.E.A.R. Day) every year on April 12, in honor of Beverly Cleary's birthday, to celebrate books and reading.

Beverly Cleary would have celebrated her 105th birthday on April 12, 2021. She passed away on March 25, 2021, at the age of 104. House Concurrent Resolution 30 recognizes and honors Beverly Cleary for her lifetime achievements in literature.