

SCR 20 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/25, 6/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Designates April 7, 2022 as Action for Peace Day to commemorate Edward Reginald “Ed” Epley’s legacy of mercy, peacemaking, generosity, and action to end war.

Senate Vote: Ayes, 26; Excused, 4

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Designated Peace Day being Ed Epley's birthday
- His service to others and his community

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Edward Reginald “Ed” Epley began his great life adventure on April 7, 1937, and his impact is still felt even after his death on January 26, 2021.

Ed Epley lived a life of advocacy to end war, gave those in need a hand up, fought for basic human rights, and encouraged everyone to leave the world a better place. Ed supported and volunteered at homeless shelters in his community and worked tirelessly to provide apartments for unhoused persons. He used his own financing, property, and creativity to establish Partner’s Place in Corvallis to provide permanent, supportive housing for chronically unhoused persons. Ed Epley was also a founding member of both the Peace and Justice Gofers, which provides nonprofit organizations with logistical assistance, and Power of 100 People Who Care. In June 2020, Ed received a pin celebrating 50 years of volunteer service with the Red Cross.

In September 2001, to protest the imminent United States invasion of Afghanistan, Ed Epley started a daily peace vigil in front of the Benton County Courthouse. Ed drove his 1961 Volkswagen van covered with anti-war signs to the daily vigil, which made him and his van symbols of peace to all who drove by. Despite storms, wildfires, and a global pandemic, the vigil has continued every day for nearly 20 years. Ed continued to stand in front of the courthouse nearly every evening until he was hospitalized for treatment of pancreatic cancer in late 2020. Ed inspired a generation of Benton County children who grew up seeing signs of peace each evening they passed the courthouse.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 20 designates April 7, 2022 as Action for Peace Day to commemorate Edward Reginald “Ed” Epley’s legacy of mercy, peacemaking, generosity, and action to end war.