

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 32

Sponsored by Representative LEIF

Whereas William Edwin “Bill” Markham was born in Chehalis, Washington, on October 9, 1922; and

Whereas Bill Markham was a student at Centralia Junior College in Washington when Japanese armed forces attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor; and

Whereas Bill Markham joined the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1942 and became a pilot of B-17 Flying Fortresses; and

Whereas Bill Markham flew 25 bombing missions over Europe, serving his country with courage, honor and distinction; and

Whereas after returning home, Bill Markham graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in business; and

Whereas Bill Markham moved to Oregon and owned and operated a logging and construction business in Douglas County; and

Whereas Bill Markham helped found Umpqua Community College and served on its board for 24 years; and

Whereas Bill Markham was a cofounder of three independent banks in southern Oregon: South Umpqua State Bank (now Umpqua Bank), Douglas National Bank and Pacific Security Bank of Reedsport; and

Whereas Bill Markham was instrumental in the origination of Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon; and

Whereas Bill Markham entered the Oregon House of Representatives in 1969 as a Republican for the 46th District; and

Whereas Bill Markham served a record 14 terms in the House of Representatives, representing the people of Douglas and Josephine Counties until term limits barred him from running again in 1997; and

Whereas Bill Markham chaired and served on numerous committees during his three decades in the House of Representatives, and he served with distinction as Speaker Pro Tempore; and

Whereas Bill Markham was widely respected by his colleagues for his integrity, wisdom and ability to get along with everyone; and

Whereas Bill Markham was a voice of civility and moderation in the Legislative Assembly, and he was renowned for his rare ability to work with members of both parties to improve the lives of Oregonians; and

Whereas Bill Markham was a tough and committed advocate for his constituents, and his leadership and expertise on natural-resource issues were especially valued by the people of his district; and

Whereas Bill Markham was a founding member of the Southern Oregon Warbirds, which was initially a group for World War II pilots but later expanded to include veterans of other wars; and

Whereas Bill Markham never missed a chance to participate in the Douglas County Veterans Day parade; and

Whereas Bill Markham was instrumental in the campaign for improvements at the Roseburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center; and

Whereas in 2017, Bill Markham spoke at the dedication of a monument on the grounds of the State Capitol to honor Claire Maybelle Phillips of Portland for her work as an American spy and humanitarian during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines in World War II; and

Whereas following the dedication, Bill Markham was surprised to be the guest of honor himself, and he was recognized for his own wartime service and many years of public service in the Legislative Assembly by Governor Kate Brown, former legislative colleagues and many other current and former state officials; and

Whereas Bill Markham was a proud veteran, but he was very humble about his military service and was reluctant to talk about it unless he was asked; and

Whereas Bill Markham passed away on April 5, 2021; and

Whereas Bill Markham will forever be remembered as a courageous veteran, a true gentleman, a great statesman and a selfless and dedicated public servant; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, honor the life and accomplishments of former state Representative William Edwin “Bill” Markham, and we express our gratitude for his contributions to the people of this state; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Bill Markham as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

Adopted by House June 22, 2021

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate June 25, 2021

Peter Courtney, President of Senate