

June 8, 2021

To: Senate Rules Committee

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 pays respect to one of the few elected officials in our recent history many of us call would a true statesman. Former Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson rises to the same level of great leaders like the late Governor Tom McCall and US Senator Mark Hatfield.

Secretary Richardson was a man of faith, a man of law, a man of family. His dedication to helping others is what moved him toward public service, whether it was an elected position, or volunteering for his church to find jobs for people out of work.

I was blessed to get to know Representative Richardson during his first term in the Oregon House when we both worked late at night. Later I had the honor of working with him for his last six years in the legislature when we both came in very early and stayed late at night.

As Secretary of State he continued that strong work ethic with the same honesty, integrity, and grace he had become respected for on both sides of the aisle.

Secretary Richardson and his wife Cathy have nine children and more than 30 grandchildren. Being a wonderful husband and father will be a big part of his legacy.

Even with all his accomplishments, Secretary Richardson was a humble man and I'm guessing he would think SCR7 is making too much fuss over him. Instead, knowing the late Secretary, he would rather see a measure encouraging Oregonians to perform community service, supporting those less fortunate, especially after the COVID crisis.

I support SCR7 because it's a reminder to all of us to pay tribute to Secretary Richardson and make sure his life mattered. We can celebrate his life and legacy of public service by finding ways to make a difference helping others.

Thank you,



Dawn Phillips

Former Chief of Staff

for State Representative Dennis Richardson

2009-2014