

HCR 2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

In memoriam: Kendra “Kennie” Parry (1947-2021).

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Kendra “Kennie” Parry was born in Sacramento, California, on November 17, 1947, and was raised in Gustine and Sebastopol, California. As a young girl, Kennie Parry took care of her four siblings while their single mother worked to support the family. She became a proud farm girl after her family moved to her new stepfather’s farm, and she bred pigs for her 4-H project and loved sitting in her “enchanted” tree.

Kennie Parry attended San Francisco State University and New York University. Her lifelong dream was to work in the theatre, and in 1968 she moved to Ashland, Oregon, to become the assistant to the head costume designer at the world-renowned Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She learned her craft well and went on to design costumes in New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Kennie Parry had a long and successful career in health care as a nurse and hospital administrator before becoming one of the top rural health care consultants in the nation. She was a respected board member and spokeswoman for the National Rural Health Association, where she worked directly with Congressional leaders to ensure that underserved rural populations had access to health care. She could move mountains (and Congress) with her faith in what was right, her inimitable sense of humor, her charm, and her eloquence.

Kennie Parry was an accomplished angler who taught fly fishing across the western United States, and she started the company Lady Angler to create fly vests designed specifically for women because, as she said with a smile, “women need to look good in the outdoors too.” She was a devout salmon conservationist, and she worked alongside her husband, Cam, to create new salmon habitat and save functionally extinct runs of fish with their bioengineering partnership River Docs.

Kennie Parry was the proud mother of an officer in the United States Marine Corps, and she was instrumental in the creation of Operation Santa, which organized women across Oregon to sew Christmas stockings, bake cookies, and provide gifts and holiday cheer to U.S. military personnel in the Middle East.

Kennie Parry’s heart was filled with love, and she was always at the center of a large circle of family, friends, colleagues, and others she welcomed from all walks of life. She helped everyone she loved to be more than they ever thought they could be.

Kennie Parry’s remarkable life took her from a girl with big dreams in a tiny town in California’s Central Valley to designing costumes in New York City to lobbying Congress, and she showed that nothing is out of reach for anyone in their life.

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Kennie Parry passed away on May 10, 2021. She loved her family above all and is survived by her husband, Cam, two sons, Corey and Tyler, four grandchildren, and many other beloved family members. Kennie Parry touched countless lives and made her community a better place.

House Concurrent Resolution 2 honors and celebrates the life and accomplishments of Kendra “Kennie” Parry and expresses gratitude for her service to the people of the State of Oregon.