

Enrolled
House Concurrent Resolution 26

Sponsored by Representative ANDERSEN; Representatives CRAMER, EVANS, MANNIX, Senators PATTERSON, THATCHER

Whereas Willie Bell Richardson was born in Camden, South Carolina, on December 20, 1948, to Willie Peay and Minnie Bell Wright Peay Long; and

Whereas Willie Bell Richardson was educated in the Kershaw County Public School System in South Carolina and graduated from Jackson High School in 1967; and

Whereas Willie Bell Richardson's involvement in community activism began in the 1970s in her home state of South Carolina, where she was a member of the Family Planning Advisory Council; and

Whereas Willie Bell Richardson moved to Salem, Oregon, in 1978, where she continued honing her natural talents as a community activist by serving on a variety of local committees including the YWCA, the Salem Human Rights Commission, the Oregon Women's Political Caucus and the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs; and

Whereas Willie Bell Richardson was committed to the education of Black and minority students, becoming the first Black person to be elected to the governing board of the Salem-Keizer School Board, on which she served from 1987 to 1991; and

Whereas after her term on the school board ended, Willie Bell Richardson continued recruiting and supporting Black teachers and administrators and advising school superintendents and staff to ensure Black and minority voices were heard; and

Whereas over the years, Willie Bell Richardson served countless Black students as a mentor, consultant, advocate and encourager and created many opportunities for Black teachers, administrators and staff to meet and come together for cultural support in Salem; and

Whereas Willie Bell Richardson served as president of the Oregon Black Pioneers for more than 20 years, deftly shepherding the group as it grew into the leading historical organization for the research and preservation of Black history in Oregon; and

Whereas Willie Bell Richardson passed away on January 25, 2023; and

Whereas Willie Bell Richardson's immeasurable impact as a friend, a matriarch, an advocate for the preservation of Black history in Oregon, a champion for Black and minority education and a respected voice for racial equality will be felt by generations of Oregonians to come; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, honor and celebrate the life and accomplishments of Willie Bell Richardson, and we express our gratitude for her service to the people of the State of Oregon; and be it further

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

Adopted by House April 24, 2023

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate June 21, 2023

Rob Wagner, President of Senate