

State Senator James Manning Jr., Committee Chair  
Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal & World Affairs.  
State Capital, Salem Oregon

My name is Jeffrey Dalin, and I'm the current Mayor of Cornelius.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to celebrate the life of Ralph Brown one more time. Most of this statement is from a celebration of life our community held for Ralph last summer. Hundreds of people showed up in Harleman Park for the hour before a summer concert.

I have had the honor to work beside Ralph for 20+ years. My wife and I bought our first home in Cornelius in February 1996. Soon after, my wife became involved in the library and I in the politics of our fair city. I was quickly introduced to Ralph at a library fund raiser. Back then, we were working on a HUGE community center, library, and sports complex. Ralph was deeply involved in the plan and the promotion. He shared how he could see **A Cornelius Kids** program being run out of the sports center. The twinkle in his eye and his excitement was contagious. Unfortunately, the mega project levee was turned down by the voters, but we moved forward with a grassroots effort focused on the library. That beautiful library stands as a reminder of the determination of community members like Ralph and still today hosts many meetings of the Cornelius Boosters that Ralph & Carol put so much time and love into.

The watermelon seed spitting contest is a key part of the libraries summer reading kick off. Ralph won it several times in the adult category. By a long shot... Pun intended.

Ralph had a dream of being able to walk from end to end in our town on sidewalks. I'm proud to have continued to carry that dream forward to the Adair and Baseline projects that made great strides in moving that dream forward. He would have enjoyed that pun too 😊

Ralph was a very active member of the Cornelius Boosters club. He was chair or co-chair for many years. Flag postings for holidays, plant sales, Santa at the Library, Summer reading, cookies and coco at the Christmas Tree Lighting, serving at the Thanksgiving community dinner and providing college scholarships to students from Cornelius.

Concerts in the Park, Movies in the Park & Take Care of Cornelius Day in May. Everywhere I went, Ralph & Carol were there and happy to be helping the community.

During the celebration of life, several community & family members took turns speaking about Ralph.

Joel Peterson – Chaplain, Cornelius Fire Department shared how Ralph showed up and asked questions.

Family Remembrances – Daughter Laurie Brown Saunders, Granddaughter Megan Brown Closson and Grandson Kyle Brown had similar stories to share about how Ralph always showed up and asked questions.

Reflections by Hillsboro Mayor Steve Callaway also included how Ralph always showed up and asked questions.

I share these with you to illustrate that four different groups of people wrote independent tributes to Ralph but, you would have sworn they all sat down and wrote them together because they ALL had the same theme. Ralph always showed up & asked questions.

I want to thank his wife Carol and his family. For sharing Ralph with all of us. You can't be everywhere in the community without the support and understanding of your family. We are all better for the cheerful work Ralph has done in our community.

Sincerely,



Mayor Jeffrey Dalin

322 N 31<sup>st</sup> Ave, Cornelius OR 97113