

Senate Concurrent Resolution 209

Sponsored by Senator WAGNER, Representative BOICE; Senators JAMA, KNOPP, Representatives EVANS, GOMBERG (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Honors the life and memory of Joanne Russell Verger. (Flesch Readability Score: 66.1).
In memoriam: Joanne Russell Verger, 1930-2023.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Joanne Russell Verger was born in Amite, Louisiana, on July 19, 1930, to Robert
3 Weldon Russell and Nannie Claire Russell (Lingo); and

4 Whereas as the last of four children, Joanne Verger's upbringing in the throes of the Great
5 Depression left an indelible mark on her life; and

6 Whereas growing up in the Deep South contributed to a rich and full childhood that Joanne
7 Verger would recall fondly later in life; and

8 Whereas Joanne Verger's grandfather was a Methodist minister, and he imprinted on her a
9 devout sense of faith, modesty and incredible spiritual and personal discipline; and

10 Whereas Joanne Verger was an excellent student in high school and graduated at the age of
11 16; and

12 Whereas after high school, Joanne Verger enrolled at Northwestern State College in Louisiana,
13 where she excelled as a thespian and Shakespearean actress, starring as Helena in *A Midsummer*
14 *Night's Dream*; and

15 Whereas while in college, Joanna Verger reconnected with her childhood friend Lawton, whom
16 she first met when she was in third grade; and

17 Whereas Joanne and Lawton Verger were married on November 19, 1950; and

18 Whereas Joanne and Lawton Verger later moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where Lawton took
19 a job as a Pontiac salesman; and

20 Whereas Joanne and Lawton Verger welcomed their first child, Kathy, in 1952, followed by their
21 sons Jim and John in 1955 and 1957 and their daughter Anne Adair in 1960; and

22 Whereas in 1969, Joanne and Lawton Verger moved to Coos Bay, Oregon, where they took
23 ownership of an automobile dealership; and

24 Whereas Joanne Verger became the tourism director for the City of Coos Bay and later helped
25 create the Bay Area Fun Festival and the Blackberry Arts Festival; and

26 Whereas Joanne Verger won a seat on the Coos Bay City Council in 1990; and

27 Whereas Joanne Verger was elected the City of Coos Bay's first female mayor in 1992; and

28 Whereas Joanne Verger was elected to the Oregon Legislative Assembly in 2000, where she
29 served as a member of the House of Representatives from 2001 to 2005 and as a member of the
30 Senate from 2005 to 2013; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas Joanne Verger was a tireless advocate for her community and a champion for rural
2 Oregonians everywhere; and

3 Whereas Joanne Verger represented the true spirit of bipartisanship, working across party lines
4 to create a better Oregon; and

5 Whereas Joanne Verger served the State of Oregon with dignity, honesty, kindness and resolve;
6 and

7 Whereas Joanne Verger wrote two books, *Dancing with the Daffodils* and *Moonlight on the Pond*,
8 reflecting on her childhood memories in the Deep South; and

9 Whereas Joanne Verger passed away at the age of 93 on September 22, 2023; and

10 Whereas Joanne Verger is survived by her four children and their spouses, Jim and Diane
11 Verger, Kathy and Jerry Muscus, Anne Johnson, and John and Yvette Verger; her four grandchil-
12 dren, Aaron Johnson, Logan Reeder, James Verger and Nissa Thompson; and her great-grandchild,
13 Alexandra Verger; now, therefore,

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

15 That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, celebrate the life and accom-
16 plishments of Joanne Russell Verger, and we recognize and honor her contributions to the people
17 of this state; and be it further

18 Resolved, That we share a deep sense of loss with the entire Capitol community in the absence
19 of this remarkable public servant; and be it further

20 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Joanne Russell
21 Verger as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

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