

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 210

Sponsored by Senators WAGNER, HANSELL, FREDERICK; Senators JAMA, MANNING JR, Representative LEVY B (Presession filed.)

Whereas Mike Donahue was born in Albany, Oregon, in 1946; and

Whereas Mike Donahue grew up in Albany and attended Albany Union High School, where he was elected student body president; and

Whereas following high school graduation, Mike Donahue attended and graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in journalism; and

Whereas Mike Donahue took a job as a reporter for KOIN-TV in Portland at the age of 22, but soon thereafter enlisted in the United States Army; and

Whereas while in the Army, Mike Donahue honed his skills as a writer and reporter by serving in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas Mike Donahue returned to KOIN-TV in 1972, where his talent and news writing skills soon found him elevated to the position of lead news anchor; and

Whereas Mike Donahue delivered the news to Oregonians with a commitment to accuracy, significance, context and fairness; and

Whereas Mike Donahue represented true excellence in journalism and was an inspiration to his fellow Portland news colleagues over the years, including current and former Oregon State Senators Lew Frederick, Mark Hass and Rick Metsger; and

Whereas Mike Donahue covered thousands of stories during his career, including the founding of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the eruption of Mount St. Helens, the Rajneeshee movement in Wasco County and takeover of the Wasco County town of Antelope by the Rajneeshees, seven presidential elections and countless other events of significant contemporary and historical significance; and

Whereas for over 40 years, Oregonians relied on Mike Donahue as their nightly source of the news and events that impacted their lives; and

Whereas when Mike Donahue was asked if he ever considered running for office, he replied, "I would rather report the news than be the news"; and

Whereas Mike Donahue was the longest serving journalist in the history of Portland television news; and

Whereas Mike Donahue retired in 2012 and dedicated himself to his family, his church and his community; and

Whereas Mike Donahue loved Oregon, his television viewers, his rose garden and the New York Yankees; and

Whereas Mike Donahue lived by the motto that, in reporting the news, he would rather be right than be first; and

Whereas Mike Donahue lost his beloved wife, Susan, just a few months before his own passing; and

Whereas Mike Donahue and his wife Susan raised two daughters, Joy and Noelle, in their Portland area home; and

Whereas Mike Donahue passed away on August 25, 2023, after a courageous bout with cancer; and

Whereas Mike Donahue's passion, dedication and attention to detail earned him the nickname of "the Walter Cronkite of Oregon"; 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 remarkable life and career of Mike Donahue and express our gratitude for Mike Donahue's 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 Mike Donahue as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

Adopted by Senate February 20, 2024

Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House February 26, 2024

Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House