

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp and members of the committee,

Thank you for having me. For the record, my name is Carol Suzuki, and I'm a proud alum of Team Trow and I'm speaking in favor of SCR 212 honoring Senator Cliff Trow in memoriam.

Sen. Cliff Trow was my first "boss" in the Oregon Legislature. I had taken my first course in American Politics across the street at WU and was moved to seek an internship at the capitol in 1993. Sen. Trow was the co-chair of the powerful Ways and Means so it was a big deal for a first-time intern to get to work in his office. I didn't do it for credit, I just wanted to be a part of the legislative process.

After I graduated from WU, I was lucky to land a summer position in the Senate Majority Office under Senator Dick Springer. I went on to be his Legislative Assistant for the 1995 session. Dick did not seek re-election, but I was able to stay with the Senate Democratic Office under the newly elected Democratic Leader Cliff Trow. He gave me the opportunity to become the Operations Director for the office – a position I held for 28 years. In the first picture you can see Steve Novick who was the Caucus Administrator along with Todd Foster, Legislative Director and Tim Markwell, District Legislative Assistant and Amanda Wright as our Administrative Assistant.

In the next picture, we are gathered for Todd Foster's wedding. I think you can see the love that we all have for Sen. Trow and his wife Jo Anne. They didn't have children so by extension we were theirs by default. You cannot mention Senator Trow without Jo Anne. They are two halves of a whole. You would be hard-pressed to find two people more dedicated to continued learning and community advocacy. They are a unit and enjoyed over 50 years of marriage.

Lastly, my husband Brian Clem can probably tell you more, but it was through our mutual Trow connection that we met during the 1995 session, and then later married in 1999. Brian and I gambled that year, we had predicted that the legislature would adjourn around the 4th of July as it had for some time, but instead, it went longer and longer and eventually they sine died on our wedding day, July 24, 1999 at around 2 PM. Our wedding was being held in Hood River later that afternoon – Sen. Trow was one of the few people among our friends in the Oregon Legislature to make it in time for our wedding. That was the kind of man he was.

Sen. Cliff Trow will always hold a special place in my heart. He was a warm and generous man who led with quiet leadership, and with an unwavering belief in democracy and the democratic process. I miss him and know that I was so fortunate to have in my life.

Thank you.