

# FRED HEARD TESTIMONY

Chair Liber, members of the committee, for the record my name is Scott Riordan, former staff to Senator Fred Heard.

I am grateful for the experience I had interacting with Fred's family including wife Adair, son Frederick, and daughters Heather and Robin. They are here today.

Adair Heard was a full partner in Fred's efforts over the years and is cherished to this day by those she encountered in the halls of the legislature.

Senator Heard represented both urban and rural areas in Klamath, Deschutes and Lake Counties over the years - rural farms to rapidly growing cities.

In that context Senator Heard was nominated for the role of Senate President by Portland-area Senator Ted Hallock - an upstater nominating a downstater.

Fred Heard was seen as someone with the unique ability to find the pathway to legislative success while always honoring differing points of view - including urban/rural splits, upstate/downstate issues, and finding common threads to resolve liberal/conservative challenges. Senator Heard enjoyed the challenge of serving in that role, a role he believed served all of Oregon's citizens.

Senator Heard emphasized the value of listening rather than talking. He saw his role as one of quietly finding the path forward, especially when the subject was thorny and the need great.

He was respectful of wide ranging viewpoints, choosing an empathetic frame of mind - not always easy.

Fred was keenly aware of providing citizens value for the financial investment made in his leadership role - inside and outside of the halls of the State Capitol. He was elected to leadership positions but his clear priority and obligation was to serve his constituents.

Now, in retrospect, we can see the traits that prompted others to elect Fred Heard as Majority Leader and then President of the Oregon State Senate were the same traits that led to his later-life decision to become an Episcopal Priest: empathy; thoughtful listening; commitment to deciphering the path to positive outcomes for others; and a life of public and religious service.

Now can we see the single thread of goodness that was sewn through his life as a husband, family man, teacher, politician, leader and Priest. A life well done!

Scott Riordan