

LC 4781
2025 Regular Session
PRIORITY
3/17/25 (DJ/mb/ps)

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Digest: Honors the life and memory of Philip Lang. (Flesch Readability Score: 71.8).

In memoriam: Former Speaker of the House Philip Lang, 1929-2024.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Oregon lost one of its most committed public servants with the passing of Philip David Lang on December 29, 2024; and

Whereas Phil was a lifelong Oregonian, born in Portland on December 16, 1929, the youngest of five children born to Vera Margaret (Kern) Lang and Henry Winfield Lang; and

Whereas Phil's roots in Oregon predate statehood, going back to 1848 when his family first arrived in Oregon by wagon train; and

Whereas Phil proudly went through school in Portland, beginning with Woodstock Elementary School, then continuing on to Franklin High School (where in May of 2024 he was honored with Franklin High School Alumni Association's highest honor, the Order of the Kite) and ultimately the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College; and

Whereas the vast majority of Phil's 95 years were dedicated to public service at the local, state and national levels through professional, elected, military and volunteer positions; and

Whereas Phil enlisted with the United States Army Air Corps at the age of 17, after earning the reluctant support of his parents; and

Whereas Phil valiantly served his country with the Army Air Corps, including 25 months in Japan with Air Force intelligence; 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 while in his twenties, Phil served as an Oregon State Police
2 Trooper and as Chief of Staff to Portland Mayor Terry Schrunk, and even
3 ran as a candidate for Multnomah County Sheriff, albeit unsuccessfully; and

4 Whereas in 1960, Phil's commitment to public service led him to run for
5 the Oregon House of Representatives, where he served from 1961 to 1979; and

6 Whereas Phil's colleagues in the House of Representatives selected him
7 to serve as Speaker of the House from 1975 to 1979; and

8 Whereas during his time as Speaker of the House, Phil focused on leading
9 the chamber with respect, collegiality and a commitment to the principles
10 upon which the legislative process was established; and

11 Whereas Phil worked across the aisle on consequential issues such as the
12 Equal Rights Amendment, bridging the urban-rural divide, sustainable budg-
13 eting and other laws and policies that have made lasting impacts on the lives
14 of Oregonians; and

15 Whereas Phil's work in the legislature was never about ambition or per-
16 sonal recognition, but rather about camaraderie, deepening his and his
17 colleagues' understanding of the issues faced by Oregonians across the state,
18 and an unyielding devotion to the future he and his peers were creating for
19 the generations to come; and

20 Whereas Phil's commitment to the Oregon House of Representatives and
21 the institution of the Legislative Assembly led to this body naming the
22 House wing of the Oregon State Capitol, constructed under his tenure as
23 Speaker, the "Phil Lang Memorial House Wing" in 1997; and

24 Whereas outside of the Legislative Assembly, Phil had a successful
25 35-year career in insurance, managing business lines across multiple states
26 and ushering his company into the era of computers and digital production;
27 and

28 Whereas Phil volunteered as chair of the Oregon Liquor Control Com-
29 mission from 1998 to 2011, earning a reputation nationally as a thoughtful
30 and pragmatic regulator; and

31 Whereas that reputation led Phil to serve on the board of the National

1 Alcohol Beverage Control Association for several years, including one term
2 as its chair; and

3 Whereas Phil served as a member of the board of directors of the Oregon
4 State Capitol Foundation, remaining committed through his final days to the
5 foundation's mission to preserve the Capitol, share its history and engage
6 Oregonians in our state's democracy; and

7 Whereas that tireless service led to Phil, along with his wife of nearly
8 45 years, Ginny Lang, being honored with the Bell Award for outstanding
9 service to the foundation and the Capitol as a whole; and

10 Whereas Phil is survived by his beloved Ginny, by his son, Philip David,
11 and by a host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; and

12 Whereas Phil's friends, family and colleagues remember him as a true son
13 of Oregon, a committed public servant, a steadfast advocate and a loving and
14 compassionate person; now, therefore,

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

16 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, remem-
17 ber, honor and celebrate the life of Philip Lang and recognize his contribu-
18 tions to our state and its people; and be it further

19 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family
20 of Philip Lang as an expression of our sympathy for their loss and our pro-
21 found gratitude for the man they shared with us.