

SCR 16 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure honors the life and memory of Dr. Ralph Franklin Helzerman Jr. (1942-2024).

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: Ayes, 28; Excused, 2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Ralph Franklin Helzerman, Jr., was born on December 10, 1942, in Pendleton, Oregon. He was raised in Michigan and graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1960. He received his undergraduate and M.D. degrees from the University of Michigan and during the Vietnam War, he served his country with honor and distinction as a medical officer in the United States Air Force (USAF).

Following his honorable discharge from the USAF, Ralph began a residency in ophthalmology at Oregon Health and Science University's Casey Eye Institute, which he completed in 1973. On June 6, 1964, he married Marilyn Pratt; they were married for 60 years.

After many moves around the country for his medical training and military service, Ralph and his young family settled in Hillsboro, Oregon, where he began to practice ophthalmology with Dr. Lee Peterson. Together, they formed the Hillsboro Eye Clinic, where he practiced for 37 years until his retirement in 2010. He was a lifelong learner with a thirst for knowledge, and his life was full of hobbies and passions.

Ralph was a kind man who touched the lives of countless others with his generosity. He was a firm believer in giving back to the Hillsboro community that supported him. He and Marilyn were selfless volunteers and generous donors who had an immeasurable impact on their community and were honored by the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce with the Philanthropic Leadership Award in 2016.

Ralph Helzerman passed away on October 5, 2024, and is survived by his beloved wife, Marilyn; their daughters, Kristin, Laura, Megan and Holly, and their spouses; nine grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He will forever be remembered for the profound and lasting impact he had on his patients, his community, and the people of the State of Oregon.