

SCR 29 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Golden**Senate Committee On Rules**

Action Date: 04/21/25
Action: Do adopt.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Bonham, Golden, Manning Jr, Thatcher
Exc: 1 - Jama
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure pays respect to the life and memory of Bill Thorndike, who lived from 1953 to 2025, and recognizes his service and commitment to the people of the State of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Bill Thorndike's urge to serve the community, and his prolific and valuable service to the entire state
- Bill Thorndike being named the first ever Southern Oregon University emeritus member of the Board of Trustees
- Bill Thorndike as a liaison between the business community and the state

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

William D. "Bill" Thorndike, Jr., was a lifelong champion of Southern Oregon, a dedicated civic leader, and a visionary business and education advocate. He was born on December 15, 1953, as a third-generation resident of Rogue Valley, and throughout his lifetime, he exemplified the highest standards of integrity, leadership, and service to his community and the people of the State of Oregon.

Bill Thorndike was a steadfast advocate for higher education, serving as the inaugural chair of the Southern Oregon University (SOU) Board of Trustees, guiding the institution with wisdom and vision through multiple terms, and earning the distinguished SOU President's Medal for his outstanding service. His leadership extended to business and industry, as the longtime president and chairman of Medford Fabrication, where he played a pivotal role in strengthening Oregon's economy through innovation and international trade, earning recognition as the United States Small Business Administration's Exporter of the Year in 1990.

Bill Thorndike demonstrated a profound commitment to civic engagement, serving on nearly 60 boards and committees at the local, state, and national levels, including leadership roles with the Chamber of Medford & Jackson County, Oregon Business Council, Oregon Community Foundation, Crater Lake National Park Trust, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Portland Branch, and many more. He was honored with numerous accolades throughout his lifetime, including the Glenn L. Jackson Leadership Award, the Tom McCall Leadership Award, the JCCSC Person of the Decade Award, the Chamber of Medford & Jackson County First Citizen Award, and the Resolve Imagine Award, reflecting his unwavering commitment to Oregon's prosperity, sustainability, and civic well-being.

Bill Thorndike was a devoted philanthropist, playing a key role in securing funding for vital community projects such as the United Way of Jackson County's permanent headquarters, where the auditorium now bears his name.

SCR 29 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Bill Thorndike passed away at his family cabin on February 14, 2025, after a Valentine's Day spent with his beloved wife, Angela Littlefield Thorndike. He is survived by his wife, Angela, his brothers Dan and David, his nieces and nephews Camila, Isabella, Trevor, Anna and Thomas, his many cousins, and his beloved dogs and horses.

Bill Thorndike left an indelible mark on Oregon, uplifting countless individuals and communities and shaping the future of this state through his leadership in education, business, public service, and philanthropy, and his remarkable impact will be felt for generations to come.