House Concurrent Resolution 13

Sponsored by Representative HARTMAN; Representative BOWMAN, Senator MEEK

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.** The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Digest: Honors the life and memory of Ralph Groener. (Flesch Readability Score: 71.8). In memoriam: Former state Representative Theodore Ralph Groener, 1941-2022.

2	whereas Theodore Raiph Groener was born on December 25, 1941, in Oregon City, Oregon, to
3	George Groner and Mary (McKee) Groner; and
4	Whereas later in life, along with several other family members, Ralph changed his name from
5	Groner to Groener to more accurately reflect the family's German ancestry; and
6	Whereas after graduating from West Linn High School in 1960, Ralph Groener served his coun-
7	try with honor and distinction for four years in the United States Air Force (USAF); and
8	Whereas Ralph Groener was awarded the Airman's Medal—the USAF's highest noncombat
9	award for heroism-after he risked his life to rescue three people from drowning after a boating
10	accident; and
11	Whereas Ralph Groener attended Portland Community College and earned a bachelor's degree
12	from the University of Oregon in 1969, remaining an avid Ducks fan for the rest of his life; and
13	Whereas while in college, Ralph Groener worked part-time at a local grocery store, and he be-
14	came a member of the retail clerks union; and
15	Whereas after graduating from college, Ralph Groener worked as a community organizer during
16	the national War on Poverty, taking his first steps on a lifelong journey spent fighting for the
17	underprivileged and for working families; and
18	Whereas Ralph Groener followed in the footsteps of his uncle, Oregon state Senator Richard
19	Groener, and embarked on a lifelong career involving politics; and
20	Whereas Ralph Groener was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1972, where he
21	served two very productive terms; and
22	Whereas in 1973, Ralph Groener was an original cosponsor of the first gay rights legislation to
23	be introduced in the nation; 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.

Whereas Ralph Groener was instrumental in the passage of Senate Bill 100 (1973), Oregon's

Whereas following his legislative service, Ralph Groener was elected Clackamas County com-

Whereas in 1978, Ralph Groener was defeated in his electoral bid to become Commissioner of

Whereas Ralph Groener served on the board of Clackamas Community College from 1971 to

landmark land conservation legislation, serving as the bill's carrier on the House floor; and

missioner, and he served two four-year terms on the commission; and

the Bureau of Labor and Industries; and

1983; and

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Whereas in 1990, Ralph Groener began a 30-year career as a political coordinator and lobbyist for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); and

Whereas Ralph Groener and his long-time colleague Mary Botkin were twice voted as the most effective lobby team by the Capitol Club of Oregon; and

Whereas for three decades, Ralph Groener was a beloved figure at the State Capitol and within AFSCME, known for his warmth and talkativeness; and

Whereas Ralph Groener was widely respected for his sharp political mind and strategic acumen, but he was also legendary for his huge laugh and incredible sense of humor; and

Whereas Ralph Groener retired from AFSCME in 2018, but he continued his passionate advocacy for the causes he believed in; and

Whereas three times in his life Ralph Groener acted with great courage and decisiveness at crime scenes to foil perpetrators and save victims, each time earning the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association Award for Valor; and

Whereas Ralph Groener's remarkable career was marked by dozens of other awards and honors; and

Whereas Ralph Groener passed away on June 1, 2022; and

Whereas Ralph Groener was survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Sharon; his daughter, Hilary; his son, Chris; his granddaughter, Cassidy Hedger; his great-grandsons, Colton Lee Hedger and Cayden Theodore Hedger; and many other family members, friends and colleagues who miss him dearly; and

Whereas Ralph Groener will be forever remembered for his lifetime of dedicated public service and for the profound and lasting impact he had on the people of the State of Oregon; now, therefore, Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, celebrate the life and accomplishments of Theodore Ralph Groener, and we recognize and honor his contributions to the people

of this state; and be it further

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Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Ralph Groener as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

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