

House Concurrent Resolution 31

Sponsored by Representatives VALDERRAMA, FRAGALA, NELSON, Senators MANNING JR, PROZANSKI; Representatives BOWMAN, FAHEY, ISADORE, NATHANSON

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.

Digest: Honors the life and memory of a beloved mentor and civil rights leader. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.4).

In memoriam: Lyllye Reynolds-Parker, 1946-2024.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker was born on May 8, 1946, at Sacred Heart Medical Center in
3 Eugene, Oregon, and she is believed to have been the first Black child born at the hospital; and

4 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker's birth certificate was recorded as a white birth to protect her
5 and her family from the Ku Klux Klan, which was active in Oregon at the time; and

6 Whereas in the late 1940s, Lyllye Reynolds-Parker's family was displaced from Eugene's first
7 Black neighborhood, near the Willamette River, when the Ferry Street Bridge was built, forcing
8 them to relocate to an area near what is now West 11th Avenue, where their home lacked plumbing,
9 running water and electricity; and

10 Whereas the Reynolds family is recognized as one of Eugene's founding Black families, and a
11 historical marker was placed on West 11th Avenue in 2018 to commemorate Lyllye Reynolds-
12 Parker's parents, Sam and Mattie Reynolds, who were cofounders of St. Mark Christian Methodist
13 Episcopal Church, Eugene's oldest Black congregation; and

14 Whereas in 1966, Mattie Reynolds became the first Black person to run for public office in
15 Eugene when she sought a seat on the city council, an act that deeply inspired her daughter Lyllye
16 to engage in civic life and fight for racial justice; and

17 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker became involved in activism as a teenager, serving as vice
18 president of the Eugene chapter of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and as a member
19 of the Congress of Racial Equality, where she trained in nonviolent civil disobedience; and

20 Whereas as a student at Sheldon High School in Eugene, Lyllye Reynolds-Parker was active in
21 civil rights and social justice causes and was part of the school's first graduating class; and

22 Whereas when she was in the eighth grade, a school counselor told Lyllye Reynolds-Parker that
23 her opportunities would be limited as a Black woman, discouraging her dream of becoming an at-
24 torney and instead suggesting a career in nursing, cosmetology or home economics; and

25 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker became a hairdresser before deciding at the age of 40, as a
26 single mother of two, to enroll at the University of Oregon (UO), where she frequently mentored her
27 much younger classmates; and

28 Whereas in 1991, Lyllye Reynolds-Parker earned a bachelor's degree from UO in sociology with
29 a minor in women's studies; and

30 Whereas four years after graduating from UO, Lyllye Reynolds-Parker began working as an ac-

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 academic advisor in the university's Office of Multicultural Academic Success, a position she described
2 as being her passion and purpose; and

3 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker served as a legendary student advisor at UO for 17 years,
4 helping first-generation students of color navigate higher education, advocating for second and third
5 chances with the Scholastic Review Committee and fostering a sense of belonging within the UO
6 community; and

7 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker was a mentor and source of support for countless students,
8 including many who faced personal challenges such as mental health struggles, helping them persist
9 with their education; and

10 Whereas in 2019, UO named the Lyllye Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural Center in her honor,
11 making her the first Black woman and first living person to have a building named after her at the
12 university; and

13 Whereas of the 500 public comments submitted during the naming process for the cultural cen-
14 ter, 84 percent advocated for naming the building after Lyllye Reynolds-Parker, reflecting her impact
15 on students and the community; and

16 Whereas the UO Women's Center holds the annual Lyllye B. Parker Black, Indigenous and
17 Women of Color Speaker Series in her honor, ensuring that her commitment to uplifting women of
18 color continues to inspire future generations; and

19 Whereas in 2022, Lyllye Reynolds-Parker was honored with the Icon Award by the UO Black
20 Alumni Network, recognizing her leadership and dedication to civil rights and education; and

21 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker served on the board of the League of United Latin American
22 Citizens in Eugene, and she was the honorary chair of its Anti-Racial Profiling Committee; and

23 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker's former students and community members came together to
24 help her purchase her first home at the age of 75, raising more than \$76,000 to assist with the down
25 payment in a tight housing market, a testament to the profound and lasting impact she had on those
26 she mentored; and

27 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker lived in her home with her sister, where they each had their
28 own space after decades of service to others, and Lyllye planned to pass the home on to the next
29 generation as a legacy for her son and granddaughter; and

30 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker was a pillar of Eugene's movement for racial justice, working
31 tirelessly to foster a more inclusive and equitable society; and

32 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker passed away on August 22, 2024, and the void left by her death
33 is immeasurable; and

34 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker will continue to inspire generations to come with her words
35 and example; and

36 Whereas as Lyllye Reynolds-Parker once said of the young people she felt so privileged to work
37 with: "I just marvel at who they are and take pride in the fact that I was part of the team that
38 paved the way for them"; and

39 Whereas Lyllye Reynolds-Parker will be forever remembered as a dedicated mentor, activist and
40 civil rights leader who touched countless lives and made her community a better place; now, there-
41 fore,

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

43 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, honor the life and legacy of
44 Lyllye Reynolds-Parker, and we recognize her outstanding contributions to the University of Oregon,
45 the Eugene community and the people of the State of Oregon; and be it further

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1 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Lyllye Reynolds-
2 Parker as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.
3 _____