

# House Concurrent Resolution 35

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES (at the request of Representatives Julie Fahey, Ben Bowman, Christine Drazan)

## 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 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

Whereas while in his twenties, Phil served as an Oregon State Police Trooper and as Chief of Staff to Portland Mayor Terry Schrunk, and even ran as a candidate for Multnomah County Sheriff, albeit unsuccessfully; and

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

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

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

Whereas Phil worked across the aisle on consequential issues such as the Equal Rights Amendment, bridging the urban-rural divide, sustainable budgeting and other laws and policies that have made lasting impacts on the lives of Oregonians; 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 Phil's work in the legislature was never about ambition or personal recognition, but rather about camaraderie, deepening his and his colleagues' understanding of the issues faced by Oregonians across the state, and an unyielding devotion to the future he and his peers were creating for the generations to come; and

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

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

Whereas Phil volunteered as chair of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission from 1998 to 2011, earning a reputation nationally as a thoughtful and pragmatic regulator; and

Whereas that reputation led Phil to serve on the board of the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association for several years, including one term as its chair; and

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

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

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

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

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, remember, honor and celebrate the life of Philip Lang and recognize his contributions to our state and its people; and be it further

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