

## Enrolled

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 10

Sponsored by Senator WAGNER, Representative FAHEY, Senators JAMA, BONHAM, GIROD, MANNING JR, Representatives BOWMAN, DRAZAN; Senators ANDERSON, BROADMAN, CAMPOS, FREDERICK, GELSER BLOUIN, GOLDEN, LIEBER, MCLANE, MEEK, NASH, PHAM K, PROZANSKI, REYNOLDS, SMITH DB, SOLLMAN, STARR, TAYLOR, THATCHER, WEBER, WOODS, Representatives BOICE, BOSHART DAVIS, BREESE-IVERSON, FRAGALA, GAMBA, GOMBERG, GRAYBER, JAVADI, LEWIS, MANNIX, MARSH, MCDONALD, MCINTIRE, NATHANSON, NELSON, NGUYEN H, NOSSE, PHAM H, RESCHKE, SCHARF, SMITH G, VALDERRAMA (Presession filed.)

Whereas Peter Courtney was born June 18, 1943, in Philadelphia and passed away on July 16, 2024, at his home in Salem; and

Whereas while he often called himself by his full name, Peter Michael Coleman Courtney, he insisted that everyone else call him Peter; and

Whereas Peter was proud to say that he was raised in West “By God” Virginia, where he played multiple sports in high school, earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Rhode Island, and a juris doctorate from the Boston University School of Law; and

Whereas Peter came to Oregon in July 1969 as a law clerk for Judge William S. Fort of the newly formed Oregon Court of Appeals, and lived for two years in a room at the Salem YMCA and became a huge supporter of the Y and its programs; and

Whereas Peter and his wife Margie Brenden were married for 48 years; and

Whereas Peter and Margie raised three sons-Peter, Sean and Adam-in their north Salem home along the Willamette River; and

Whereas Peter was grandfather to Brayden, Harper, Emersyn, Zaylie, Noah, Avila, Jasper and Blaise, who was born after Peter’s passing; and

Whereas Peter loved animals, especially his dachshunds, Yoda and Dilly; and

Whereas Peter’s first political office was that of Salem City Councilor from 1974 to 1980, and Peter was subsequently elected in 1980 to seven terms in the Oregon House of Representatives, serving as House Democratic leader for eight years; and

Whereas Peter was elected to the Senate in 1998, serving six terms, and was elected by his Senate peers as President of the Senate in 2003; and

Whereas Peter was the longest-serving legislator and longest-tenured President of the Senate in Oregon’s history, leading the chamber for a record 20 years; and

Whereas Peter was a servant leader who brought out the best in his colleagues and celebrated their accomplishments; and

Whereas while Peter was a proud lifelong Democrat, he staunchly promoted bipartisan cooperation in the Senate and often spoke of cooperation, respecting other viewpoints and the power of compromise; and

Whereas Peter was known as a gifted orator and delivered countless inspiring speeches as a legislator, as President of the Senate, as a professor and as a friend and family member; and

Whereas Peter was a champion for children, animal rights, earthquake preparedness, victims’ rights and services, and mental health, and he sponsored more than two hundred bills that became law, including Oregon’s first vote-by-mail legislation in 1981; and

Whereas Peter’s legislative efforts led to earthquake improvements to more than 450 critical public buildings, including schools, fire stations, hospitals, 911 call centers and the Oregon State Capitol building; and

Whereas Peter was a driving force in the construction of a new state mental health hospital in Oregon, which opened in 2013; and

Whereas at Peter's urging a memorial was created adjacent to the hospital to honor the more than 3,500 patients whose cremains were stored in copper canisters on the site; and

Whereas the hospital and surrounding grounds were dedicated as the Peter Courtney Salem Campus of the Oregon State Hospital; and

Whereas Peter worked for 30 years as an administrator and instructor at Western Oregon University and was a champion of both education and physical fitness; and

Whereas Western Oregon University dedicated the Peter Courtney Health and Wellness Center in Peter's honor in 2015; and

Whereas Peter regularly exercised in the Salem YMCA spin classes and secured state funding to help pay for the construction of a new YMCA facility on the same downtown Salem site where he once lived; and

Whereas the new veterans' housing apartment building at the Y is named Courtney Place; and

Whereas Peter coached basketball at the Salem Boys and Girls Club where he enthusiastically believed in the children's potential to win at sports and in life; and

Whereas Peter loved and was beloved in his adopted hometown of Salem; and

Whereas the City of Salem named the bridge linking Riverfront Park and Minto-Brown Island Park the Peter Courtney Minto Island Bridge; and

Whereas Peter loved sports, the Oregon State Fair, the Oregon state flag and Oregon high school mascots; and

Whereas Peter ran in the iconic Hood to Coast Relay 20 times, including in 2010 just 13 months after undergoing hip replacement surgery, and appeared in the 2011 documentary *Running Forward: Conquering Oregon's Hood to Coast Relay*; and

Whereas Peter enjoyed spending time with his family camping on the Snake and Metolius rivers, visiting the Oregon coast and watching his sons play sports, attend college and become fathers; and

Whereas Peter both loved the excitement of jet skiing on the Willamette River and calm and peaceful moments enjoying coffee and cinnamon rolls with Margie; and

Whereas at every point over his six decades as an Oregon public servant, Peter lived up to his slogan "Here to Serve. Nobody Works Harder."; and

Whereas Peter dedicated his life in service to Oregon, often referring to his beloved state as "Oregon, My 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, declare that Senate President Peter Courtney will forever be remembered as a dedicated and fearless leader for Oregon; and be it further

Resolved, That Peter Courtney's work ethic and bipartisan spirit will forever be upheld as an aspiration for members of the Legislative Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, That Peter Courtney's compassion and concern for the people of Oregon will forever be seen as a model for a life of public service and for what can be achieved in service to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislative Assembly determines that naming the bicameral, bipartisan lounge for members in the newly renovated Oregon State Capitol building as the Peter Courtney Memorial Lounge is an appropriate and fitting way to honor this indomitable champion for the people of Oregon; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Peter Courtney as an expression of our immense admiration and profound gratitude.

Adopted by Senate March 27, 2025

Readopted by Senate May 15, 2025

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Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House May 13, 2025

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House