

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 16

Sponsored by Senator SOLLMAN

Whereas Dr. Ralph Franklin Helzerman Jr. was born on December 10, 1942, in Pendleton, Oregon, to Dr. Ralph Franklin Helzerman Sr. and Edna A. (MacKenzie) Helzerman; and

Whereas Ralph Helzerman was raised in Tecumseh, Michigan, and he graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1960; and

Whereas Ralph Helzerman received his undergraduate and M.D. degrees from the University of Michigan; and

Whereas during the Vietnam War, Ralph Helzerman served his country with honor and distinction as a medical officer in the United States Air Force (USAF); and

Whereas following his honorable discharge from the USAF, Ralph Helzerman began a residency in ophthalmology at Oregon Health and Science University's Casey Eye Institute, which he completed in 1973; and

Whereas on June 6, 1964, Ralph Helzerman married the love of his life, Marilyn Pratt, and they shared 60 happy years of marriage and raised four daughters together; and

Whereas after many moves around the country for his medical training and military service, Ralph Helzerman and his young family settled in Hillsboro, Oregon, where he began to practice ophthalmology with Dr. Lee Peterson, and together they formed the Hillsboro Eye Clinic, where Ralph practiced for 37 years until his retirement in 2010; and

Whereas Ralph Helzerman was a lifelong learner with an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and his life was full of hobbies and passions he enjoyed sharing with family and friends, including (to name just a few!) archery, singing, hunting and fishing, investing, birding, travel, golf, reading, Hillsboro Hops baseball and University of Michigan athletics; and

Whereas Ralph Helzerman sang with the Oregon Chorale for more than 30 years and also served on its board of directors; and

Whereas Ralph Helzerman was a kind and gentle man who touched the lives of countless others with his spirit and generosity; and

Whereas Ralph Helzerman was a firm believer in giving back to the Hillsboro community that supported him in his years of practicing medicine, and he and Marilyn were selfless volunteers and generous donors, making an immeasurable impact on their community; and

Whereas among the many organizations Ralph and Marilyn Helzerman supported were local arts organizations and theatre groups, the Hillsboro Public Library, the Hillsboro Schools Foundation, the Hillsboro Hops, the Hillsboro Medical Center Foundation and the Hillsboro Community Foundation, where Ralph served on the board of directors; and

Whereas Ralph and Marilyn Helzerman were instrumental in helping to fund the Walters Cultural Arts Center, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve, Noble Woods Park and the all-inclusive playground at Hidden Creek Park West; and

Whereas Ralph and Marilyn Helzerman were honored by the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce with the Philanthropic Leadership Award in 2016; and

Whereas Ralph Helzerman passed away on October 5, 2024; and

Whereas Ralph Helzerman was survived by his beloved wife, Marilyn; their daughters, Kristin, Laura, Megan and Holly, and their spouses; nine grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews; and

Whereas Ralph Helzerman will forever be remembered for the profound and lasting impact he had on his patients, his community and 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, honor and celebrate the remarkable life and achievements of Dr. Ralph Franklin Helzerman Jr., and we express our sincere and abiding gratitude for his service to the people of this state; and be it further

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

Adopted by Senate February 20, 2025

Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House June 10, 2025

Julie Fahey, Speaker of House