

5 March 2025

To: The Honorable Senator Janeen Sollman

Fr: Peter B. Truax

Re: Senate Resolution honoring Richard Kidd

I am a 60-year resident of the City of Forest Grove and for well over half of those six decades it has been my pleasure and no small honor to count Richard Kidd as a dear, dear friend.

I got to know him as a businessman where he ran a photography studio. His wife, Christine, was one of my wife's colleagues in teaching at Harvey Clarke Elementary School.

It is safe to say that our deep and enduring friendship grew over the years. It came into full flower with our mutual service for the City. I followed in Richard's footsteps, first as a Planning Commissioner, then as an elected City Councilor, and finally as Mayor.

Richard's commitment and contribution to community is unmatched. He was instrumental in the building of a community auditorium that is the site of many public events for the people of Forest Grove. He partnered with officials at Pacific University, notably the late Phil Creighton, in developing a new look Lincoln Park, and the addition of Thatcher Park to the city's inventory. And he was part of the leadership on City Council that honored the public drive to permit the raising of chickens in backyard coops. While that originally offended my "big-city sensibilities, I went along with that vote. It made Forest Grove more livable.

To say that I learned a great deal is to understate the impact he had on my life, in public service, in politics, and in personal growth.

I had the extreme privilege to speech at Richard's memorial service in November and I would like to share my closing words.

When Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey died in 1978, his good friend and political student, Vice President Walter Mondale, eulogized his at his funeral. He closed with these words, these very fitting words. Said Mr. Mondale, "He taught us how to hope; he taught us how to love; he taught us how to win and how to lose. He taught us how to live, and, finally, he taught us how to die."

I can't think of finer words to honor my good, and gracious, friend.