

Testimony for SCR10 honoring Peter Courtney

March 17, 2025

Submitted by former Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson

It was such a pleasure serving in the Oregon Senate with Peter Courtney. What made him a great leader was his unique ability to empathize and respect everyone, whether liberal, moderate, or conservative. He spent time talking with people on both sides of an issue, whether he agreed or not.

His respect for the legislative institution and process was great and he worked hard to keep decorum on the floor of the Senate. His humor, which not everyone understood, made being a member of the Senate fun, even though we were dealing with some very serious issues.

Every session he gave each member a memento that represented some aspect of Oregon. I still have the Prairie Schooner that is a version of the Conestoga wagon, a teak, beveled Lead Glass Lantern, a beautiful round Seal of Oregon made from myrtle wood, a handmade Salmon made from recycled materials, and a hand-blown glass float.

Peter was a significant part of the Legislature and of my life. He's missed by me and the State of Oregon will miss his leadership.