



## SCR 10 - Honoring Peter Courtney

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, members of the committee. Good afternoon, my name is Dale Penn and I am here to say a few words in honor and support of Peter Michael Coleman Courtney.

I've been in this building for over 20 years now. First as staff, then as a lobbyist. I can honestly say I have never met anyone quite like Peter Courtney. And I don't think I ever will again.

You all knew Peter—many of you better than I did. He was irascible, cantankerous, impossible to pin down, and sometimes impossible to please. He could be infuriating one minute and inspiring the next. And if you came to him asking for something, you had better be prepared. Because Peter never gave an inch unless you earned it.

I would struggle at times to prepare clients for a first meeting with him. He invariably would ask intelligent, astute questions. But, would he also spend half the meeting telling my clients that their lobbyist hated him personally and constantly worked against him? All of this done with a devil's gleam in his eye (with a Bobblehead of Pope Francis next to him joining in the fun). This is the version of Peter I will miss the most. Because for all of us who loved him and loved working with him, you knew that this was one of the ways he showed his appreciation and affection for those of us in the industry.

I learned how to be a better advocate and lobbyist because of Peter. Not the kind of advocate that just talks loud, but the kind that listens. The kind that does the work. The kind that never walks into a room unprepared because, believe me, Peter could spot an empty argument from across the rotunda, and he had no patience for it.

Peter made this place better. He made this state better. And for those of us lucky enough to have learned from him, he made us better too.

We won't hear that voice booming through the halls anymore. We won't get to watch him hold court in the Senate chamber or across that massive wooden table in his office. But the lessons he left us? Thankfully, they're not going anywhere.

Please join me in supporting him by voting yes on SCR 10.

Thank you.

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