



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Kayse Jama
The Honorable Daniel Bonham
Senate Rules Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Concurrent Resolution 10

Dear Chair Jama and Vice-Chair Bonham,

This resolution speaks to the impactful life and career of our dear friend and colleague, Peter Michael Coleman Courtney, the former President of the Oregon State Senate and longest-serving state legislator in Oregon history.

It is an honor to recognize a man who I was privileged to call a friend. President Courtney was an ally in supporting an Oregon where everyone can find success and community. His life story, the way he embraced Oregon and public service, and his love for the institution of the Oregon Legislature leaves a legacy that will live on for decades. He led through times of prosperity and times of struggle – including the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic – with a steadfast commitment to protecting people and making their lives better. His tenure in the legislature is marked by incredible triumphs, earned through his genuine statesmanship and enormous heart.

President Courtney never forgot his journey or the things he learned along the way. He never forgot to stand up for those who needed a champion. Like the individuals who died at the Oregon State Hospital, for whom he fought for their dignity and a respectful resting place. He fought for better mental health treatment. He fought for the humane treatment of animals. He fought for everyday Oregonians. I want to recognize President Courtney for being one of the most important architects of our state in recent memory. At his core, Peter believed that we need to take care of each other, live with compassion for our neighbors, and get big things done, together. These Oregon values will live on in his name.

My favorite Peter was the former legal aid lawyer, rallying his colleagues, taking on big corporations in support of a bill to retain the awards of class action lawsuits to support consumer justice and fairness in the world. I respected Peter for his faith, a Catholic who never missed a smudge of ashes on his forehead on Ash Wednesday, a sign of his humbleness before God in the Capitol at the beginning of Lent.

I hope every Oregonian who had the privilege of knowing Peter will continue to cherish their favorite memory of him. Furthermore, I hope his legacy continues to guide the aspirations of this legislative assembly and serve as an example of true public service.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek