

Senate Concurrent Resolution 205

Sponsored by Senator ROSENBAUM; Senators ATKINSON, BATES, BEYER, BOQUIST, BURDICK, COURTNEY, DEVLIN, FERRIOLI, GEORGE, HASS, JOHNSON, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, MORSE, OLSEN, PROZANSKI, SHIELDS, STEINER HAYWARD, TELFER, VERGER, WINTERS (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

In memoriam: Betty Roberts, 1923-2011.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Betty Roberts was one who defined an era in the history of this state, serving with
3 strength, fairness, compassion and integrity and becoming a mentor and role model for many; and

4 Whereas Betty Roberts was born in Arkansas City, Kansas, on February 5, 1923, spent much
5 of her childhood in Texas and moved to Oregon after World War II; and

6 Whereas Betty Roberts attended Eastern Oregon College and graduated from Portland State
7 College with a bachelor of science degree in education in 1958; and

8 Whereas Betty Roberts taught at Portland high schools and Mt. Hood Community College from
9 1958 to 1967; and

10 Whereas Betty Roberts earned a master's degree in political science in 1962 and a law degree
11 from Lewis and Clark Law School in 1966; and

12 Whereas Betty Roberts raised four children while pursuing her education, pursuing her teaching
13 career and launching her political career; and

14 Whereas Betty Roberts was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1964, representing
15 Multnomah County, and was re-elected in 1966; and

16 Whereas in 1968 Betty Roberts was elected to the Oregon Senate, where she was the only
17 woman; and

18 Whereas in 1971 Betty Roberts was a cosponsor of the landmark Bottle Bill, the first bill of its
19 kind in the nation and a model for similar legislation throughout the United States; and

20 Whereas Betty Roberts ran unsuccessfully for Governor of Oregon in 1974, losing narrowly in
21 the primary to the person who would become Governor, Robert W. Straub; and

22 Whereas in 1974 Betty Roberts was nominated by the Democratic Party to run for the United
23 States Senate, but lost in the general election to Republican Bob Packwood; and

24 Whereas Governor Straub appointed Betty Roberts to the Oregon Court of Appeals in 1977,
25 where she was the first woman to serve as appellate judge in the state's history; and

26 Whereas, when up for election to retain her position on the Court of Appeals, Betty Roberts
27 overcame discrimination based on her gender and won the election to a full six-year term in 1978;
28 and

29 Whereas Governor Vic Atiyeh appointed Betty Roberts to the Oregon Supreme Court in 1982,
30 again as the first woman in the history of the State of Oregon to serve on the Supreme Court; and

31 Whereas Justice Roberts authored many landmark opinions, including *Hewitt v. SAIF*, which

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 established that men and women have equal rights under the Oregon Constitution; and

2 Whereas Justice Roberts retired from the Supreme Court in 1986 in order to spend time with
3 her husband, Keith Skelton; and

4 Whereas after retirement Betty Roberts had an active career as a mediator and continued to
5 serve as a senior judge in this state; and

6 Whereas Betty Roberts received many awards for her unflagging commitment to equality and
7 justice and for her leadership in promoting the role of women in the law and in politics; and

8 Whereas Betty Roberts received an honorary doctorate from Portland State University in June
9 2011; and

10 Whereas Betty Roberts died in Portland on June 25, 2011; now, therefore,

11 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

12 That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, express our gratitude for the
13 lifelong commitment to justice, leadership in combating discrimination and selfless service of Betty
14 Roberts on behalf of all Oregonians; and be it further

15 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented with our condolences to Betty Roberts'
16 children, Dian, John, Jo and Randy.

17
