

# House Concurrent Resolution 4

Sponsored by Representatives THATCHER, MERKLEY, Senators L GEORGE, COURTNEY; Representative KRUMMEL, Senator AVAKIAN (at the request of Oregon State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Robert Newell House Museum, Friends of Historic Champoeg)

## 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**.

Declares March 30, 2007, Robert "Doc" Newell Day in Oregon in honor of 200th anniversary of his birth.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2       Whereas Oregon pioneer Robert "Doc" Newell, a mountain man, fur trapper and civic leader,  
3 brought the first wagon overland into the Willamette Valley in 1841; and

4       Whereas Robert Newell's skills at rudimentary medicine earned him the nickname "Doc" by  
5 which he was known the rest of his life; and

6       Whereas Robert Newell was present at the historic vote on May 2, 1843, to vote "yes" at  
7 Champoeg for the provisional government, the birth of citizen government in Oregon; and

8       Whereas Robert Newell promoted Champoeg as the seat of government, offering four square  
9 blocks of his own land for the provisional capitol of Oregon; and

10       Whereas Robert Newell was a member of the committee of nine appointed after the vote on May  
11 2, 1843, to write the first laws, the Organic Articles and Laws, for the new provisional Oregon  
12 government; and

13       Whereas Robert Newell was one of the members of the first House of Representatives for the  
14 provisional government when the amended Organic Laws were accepted on July 25, 1845, taking  
15 office on December 2, 1845; and

16       Whereas Robert Newell was one of the founding members of the first literary and debating club  
17 in the Oregon Territory, the Oregon Lyceum; and

18       Whereas Robert Newell served as one of the founding directors and was influential in publishing  
19 the first newspaper west of the Rocky Mountains, the *Oregon Spectator*; and

20       Whereas Robert Newell placed the first keel boats, the Ben Franklin and the Mogul, in the  
21 Willamette River above the falls at Oregon City in 1846; and

22       Whereas Robert Newell was the first Indian sub-agent appointed by the federal government for  
23 tribes south of the Columbia River; and

24       Whereas Robert Newell was appointed one of three commissioners to hold a council with the  
25 Indians after the Whitman Massacre; and

26       Whereas Robert Newell was re-elected to the House of Representatives in June of 1848, and in  
27 August 1848 Congress officially made Oregon a territory, led by Governor Joseph Lane; and

28       Whereas Robert Newell served as captain of a select group of Oregon scouts accepted into the  
29 service of the United States during the Yakima Indian Wars of 1855-1858; and

30       Whereas Robert Newell became the first grand master of the Champoeg Masonic Lodge No. 27

**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.

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1 in 1859 and served in that capacity for three years; and

2       Whereas Robert Newell was re-elected as a representative to the Oregon Legislature in 1860;  
3 and

4       Whereas Robert Newell was appointed Indian agent to the Nez Perce tribe on July 22, 1868, and  
5 assisted the tribe in their meetings with federal officials for one year in his last official capacity  
6 before his death on November 14, 1869, at the age of 62; now, therefore,

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

8       That March 30, 2007, be declared Robert “Doc” Newell Day in Oregon on the occasion of the  
9 200th anniversary of his birth.

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