

Enrolled
Senate Concurrent Resolution 15

Sponsored by Senator GORDLY; Senator CARTER

Whereas Judge Mercedes Deiz passed away on October 5, 2005, at the age of 87, leaving a long legacy of service to the legal profession; and

Whereas Judge Mercedes Deiz, after graduating fourth in her class at Northwestern School of Law, combined community activism with her practice as a trial lawyer; and

Whereas Judge Mercedes Deiz became the first black female lawyer in Oregon when she was admitted to the bar in 1960 and became the first woman of color to become a judge in Oregon when she was appointed as a district court judge in 1969; and

Whereas Judge Mercedes Deiz was elected as a Multnomah County Circuit Court judge, defeating seven male challengers for the position; and

Whereas Judge Mercedes Deiz became an advocate for youth, spending much of her time on the bench presiding over family law cases; and

Whereas Judge Mercedes Deiz served on the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth and the Metropolitan Youth Commission; and

Whereas Judge Mercedes Deiz was a founding member of the National Association for Women Judges and a founding board member of Oregon Women Lawyers, and was actively involved in the National Bar Association, the Oregon Minority Lawyers Association and the Owen M. Panner American Inn of Court; and

Whereas Judge Mercedes Deiz taught trial techniques at Harvard Law School as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow; and

Whereas colleagues of Judge Mercedes Deiz state that she exemplified the qualities that make the very best lawyers: common sense, practicality, a quick wit, decisiveness, compassion, concern for the community and an abiding love and respect of the law; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly, mourn the passing of Judge Mercedes Deiz and honor her lifelong dedication to her community and to the legal profession.

Adopted by Senate April 5, 2007

Secretary of Senate

President of Senate

Adopted by House May 10, 2007

Speaker of House