

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Boone, Esquivel, Freeman, Matthews, Riley, Weidner, Cowan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Komp
Prepared By:	David Molina, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Memorializes the life of Robert “Vern” Cook (1925-2008).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Former Senator Cook’s distinguished public service to his community of Gresham and all Oregonians
- His humility, infectious good humor and passion for the political process impacted those who knew him
- His significant legislative accomplishments, resulting in increased state funding for schools, changing election law to make registering to vote easier and supporting land use legislation

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Vern Cook was born in St. Francis, Kansas on October 14, 1925, and lived there with his family until the Great Depression. The family moved and eventually settled in Gresham in 1937 during strawberry season. Upon graduation from Gresham High School, Cook pursued his bachelor’s degree from Reed College, and subsequently earned a law degree from the University of Oregon Law School, all while working full-time. In 1955 he married Beryl Kirkwood and the two raised five children, making Sandy River Canyon near Troutdale their new home.

Cook served with distinction in the Oregon House of Representatives from 1957 through 1960, and in the Oregon Senate from 1961 through 1980. His most significant legislative accomplishments included increasing state funding for schools, voter registration reform, land use legislation and working against passage of a sales tax. In addition to his legislative work, he served on the Mt. Hood Community College Board of Directors, was a Gresham city judge, a Troutdale city attorney, and was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1964. He dedicated more than 50 year to public service to the people of Gresham and all Oregonians.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 honors the late Vern Cook’s more than five decades of public service to the people of Gresham and all Oregonians. A copy of this resolution will be sent to Vern Cook’s wife, Beryl, and to their children Robert Jr., Randal, David, Marc and Patricia.