

House Joint Resolution 24

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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**.

Resolves to rename Department of Justice building as Hardy Myers Justice Building.

JOINT RESOLUTION

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Whereas Hardy Myers set precedents when elected to serve as Attorney General of Oregon; and
Whereas Hardy Myers honorably served five terms in the Oregon House of Representatives and was twice elected as Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
Whereas Hardy Myers was elected three times to serve as Oregon's 15th Attorney General; and
Whereas Hardy Myers won all six cases the Oregon Department of Justice brought to the United States Supreme Court during his tenure as Attorney General; and
Whereas Hardy Myers successfully defended against federal intervention in unique Oregon laws such as the Oregon Death with Dignity Act; and
Whereas Hardy Myers wrote and then helped pass two important constitutional amendments that give the victims of crime the right to individually enforce rights granted to them by the Oregon Constitution; and
Whereas Hardy Myers secured passage of Oregon's first effective "do not call" telephone solicitation law in 1999, prompting other states to follow his example; and
Whereas Hardy Myers prepared and filed Oregon's unique civil complaint against tobacco manufacturers for Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act violations, unlawful trade practices and other violations in 1997 and directed Oregon's litigation efforts, which led to the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement in 1998; and
Whereas an independent committee later recognized Oregon's uniquely aggressive contributions to the Tobacco Master Settlement litigation and awarded Oregon a larger-than-proportionate share of the total recovery as a result; and
Whereas Hardy Myers served as chair of the Conference of Western Attorneys General; and
Whereas Hardy Myers served as chair of the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force and led the fight to protect victims of sexual assault; and
Whereas Hardy Myers took a leadership role in developing the Oregon High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program that ultimately brought millions of dollars to Oregon to fight high-level narcotics trafficking and that created the state's only wiretap program; and
Whereas Hardy Myers filed and won a lawsuit that resulted in the cleanup and removal of the New Carissa shipwreck off Oregon's coast; and
Whereas Hardy Myers filed claims in the Enron bankruptcy case, preserving Oregon's claims that Enron illegally manipulated energy markets in Oregon, overcharged for energy and violated state and federal laws, winning more than \$11 million from the bankruptcy; and

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 Whereas Hardy Myers successfully challenged several drug companies for antitrust violations
2 that increased the price of drugs and impaired access to generic drugs at a reduced cost for
3 Oregonians; and

4 Whereas Hardy Myers led the nationwide challenge to Warner-Lambert's deceptive and off-label
5 marketing of Neurontin, an epilepsy drug, which led to a \$430 million global settlement and estab-
6 lished the Oregon Department of Justice as a national leader in drug company consumer protection
7 cases; and

8 Whereas Hardy Myers in 2002 convicted Pacific Surimi, a large fish-processing corporation, of
9 theft and obtained a judgment for \$800,000, one of the largest in Oregon criminal history; and

10 Whereas Hardy Myers participated in the multi-state investigations of several companies sus-
11 pected of illegal market manipulations, resulting in skyrocketing west coast energy prices for
12 Oregon electrical customers during 2000 and 2001; and

13 Whereas the settlements of the energy market manipulation cases brought more than \$50 million
14 to Oregon, with much of that recovery applied to subsidize energy conservation projects and to help
15 low-income Oregonians meet essential home-heating needs; and

16 Whereas Hardy Myers helped conceive and establish the Military Assistance Panel within the
17 Oregon State Bar, a program by which the bar connects service members experiencing legal prob-
18 lems with Oregon lawyers willing to help for free or at a reduced charge; and

19 Whereas Hardy Myers established the Oregon Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and
20 trained hundreds of police and thousands of citizens in how to keep children safe and arrested
21 hundreds of child molesters and traffickers in child pornography; and

22 Whereas Hardy Myers led the nationwide effort to stop the illegal Internet trafficking of ciga-
23 rettes to avoid state and federal tobacco taxes, which resulted in agreements with all major credit
24 card companies to desist from providing services to businesses that illegally sold cigarettes over the
25 Internet and saved Oregon and most other states millions of dollars annually in potentially lost tax
26 revenue; and

27 Whereas Hardy Myers assisted the Benton County District Attorney and Corvallis police in the
28 largest drug case in county history, which resulted in the conviction of 16 persons for trafficking
29 in more than 25 kilograms of methamphetamine a month, including the lead defendant's conviction
30 for racketeering and sentence to 18 years in state prison; now, therefore,

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

32 That, to recognize Hardy Myers' significant contributions to the development of the law and the
33 pursuit of justice during his many years of leadership and public service, the Oregon Department
34 of Justice Building, headquarters for the department, be renamed the Hardy Myers Justice Building.

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