

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Atkinson, Beyer, Burdick, Rosenbaum
Nays: 0
Exc.: Ferrioli
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 6/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Memorializes former Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives and former U.S. Congressman Robert Duncan (1920-2011).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of resolution

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Bob Duncan was the first person to serve as Speaker of Oregon’s House of Representatives for two consecutive sessions (1959 and 1961).

According to his May 1 obituary in *The Washington Post*, “Mr. Duncan, a Medford lawyer, represented southwestern Oregon [in Congress] for two terms until President Lyndon B. Johnson encouraged him to run for U.S. Senate. In 1966, Mr. Duncan, a supporter of the Vietnam War, lost a nationally watched Senate race to Republican Mark O. Hatfield, who was Oregon’s governor and an early opponent of U.S. military action in Southeast Asia. Wayne Morse (D), who held Oregon’s other Senate seat and was a critic of the war, crossed party lines to endorse Hatfield, who won by 25,000 votes.

In 1968, Mr. Duncan took on Morse in the Democratic primary for Morse’s seat. Mr. Duncan lost by 10,000 votes, and Morse went on to lose the general election to Republican Bob Packwood.

Mr. Duncan won an open congressional seat in Portland in 1974, making him the only person in Oregon history to represent U.S. House districts in different parts of the state. He held the seat until 1980, when he was upset in the primary by a young activist for seniors, Ron Wyden, who was beginning a long career in Congress.”