

Enrolled
House Concurrent Resolution 20

Sponsored by Representative BUCKLEY, Senator BATES

Whereas William Patton was born on September 22, 1927, in Medford and passed away at his home in Ashland on January 13, 2011; and

Whereas William Patton, after two years of service with the United States Army Air Forces, earned a degree in drama from Stanford University; and

Whereas William Patton, after meeting Oregon Shakespeare Festival founder Angus Bowmer at Stanford University, began volunteering at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland in 1948 as a technical assistant; and

Whereas William Patton, while simultaneously serving as the festival's lighting director, performed as Paris in *Romeo and Juliet* in 1949 and as Prince John in *Henry IV, Part One* in 1950; and

Whereas William Patton became the festival's first full-time employee, leading the festival from his appointment as general manager in 1953 until his retirement as executive director in 1995; and

Whereas William Patton oversaw the construction of three world-class theatres during his tenure, including the renowned Elizabethan Theatre; and

Whereas the Oregon Shakespeare Festival won the Tony Award for regional theatre in 1983 under William Patton; and

Whereas William Patton received the Oregon Governor's Award for the Arts in 1993; and

Whereas William Patton led the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to become the largest regional theatre in the country, growing from 29 performances and an audience of 15,000 in his first year as general manager to 752 performances and 359,000 attendees in the year he retired; and

Whereas William Patton has been described as a visionary, an Oregon treasure and a gentleman in every way; and

Whereas the 2011 season of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival is dedicated to William Patton in honor of his lifetime of service; and

Whereas William Patton is survived by his wife, Shirley, whom he met when she joined the festival as an actress in 1958, three children and seven grandchildren; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, recognize, honor and celebrate the remarkable life and achievements of William Patton and his great contributions to our state; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the wife and family of William Patton as an expression of our condolences.

Adopted by House April 28, 2011

Ramona Kenady Line, Chief Clerk of House

Bruce Hanna, Speaker of House

Arnie Roblan, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 24, 2011

Peter Courtney, President of Senate