

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 23

Sponsored by Representative GELSER, Senators BATES, JOHNSON, TELFER; Representatives BAILEY, BARKER, BARNHART, BENTZ, BERGER, BEYER, BOONE, BREWER, BUCKLEY, CAMERON, CANNON, CLEM, CONGER, COWAN, DEMBROW, DOHERTY, ESQUIVEL, FREDERICK, FREEMAN, GARRARD, GARRETT, GILLIAM, GREENLICK, HANNA, HARKER, HICKS, HOLVEY, HOYLE, HUFFMAN, HUNT, JENSON, JOHNSON, KENNEMER, KOMP, KOTEK, KRIEGER, LINDSAY, MATTHEWS, MCLANE, NATHANSON, NOLAN, OLSON, PARRISH, READ, RICHARDSON, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLE, SHEEHAN, G SMITH, J SMITH, SPRENGER, THATCHER, THOMPSON, TOMEI, WAND, WEIDNER, WHISNANT, WINGARD, WITT, Senators ATKINSON, BEYER, BONAMICI, BOQUIST, BURDICK, COURTNEY, DEVLIN, DINGFELDER, EDWARDS, FERRIOLI, GEORGE, GIROD, HASS, KRUSE, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, MORSE, NELSON, OLSEN, PROZANSKI, ROSENBAUM, SHIELDS, STARR, THOMSEN, VERGER, WHITSETT, WINTERS

Whereas Ben Westlund was born on September 3, 1949, in Long Beach, California, and passed away on March 7, 2010, in Bend, Oregon; and

Whereas Ben Westlund moved to Oregon as a teen with his parents, Bernard “Bud” and Dorothy Westlund, and his two brothers, Richard and Morris; and

Whereas Ben Westlund graduated from Whitman College in 1972, where he earned degrees in education and history; and

Whereas Ben Westlund married his wife, Libby Bishop, a high school classmate, in 1987, and after selling their registered Hereford herd in 1990, they settled on the banks of the Deschutes River in Tumalo, where they had two children, BJ and Taylor; and

Whereas Ben Westlund had a number of successful private sector businesses before he entered public service, including a mining venture, marketing company, eastern Oregon cattle ranch and cattle genetics operations, where his best-known prize-winning Hereford bull was named Reggie; and

Whereas Ben Westlund was a lifetime fan of baseball and specifically of the Los Angeles Dodgers, and was also part-owner in the 1990s of a minor league baseball team called the Bend Bandits; and

Whereas Ben Westlund was convinced by his friend Lynn Lundquist to run for the Legislative Assembly and was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1996; and

Whereas Ben Westlund was appointed to the Senate in 2003 and successfully won election to the seat in 2004 with the endorsement of both the Republican and Democratic Parties; and

Whereas Ben Westlund, in his 12 years in the Legislative Assembly, was a cochairperson of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during this state’s 2001 fiscal crisis and spearheaded legislation that created the Oregon Rainy Day Fund, the Public Safety Memorial Fund and the Oregon Cultural Trust; and

Whereas Ben Westlund advocated for access to higher education for central Oregon and was the chief legislative advocate for creating the Cascades Campus of Oregon State University; and

Whereas Ben Westlund valued good policy above politics and implored the Legislative Assembly in 2003 to “stop being politicians who think only of the next election, and start being statesmen who think only of the next generation”; and

Whereas Ben Westlund put people before politics and could not be defined by political party, and in his career was a Republican, an independent and a Democrat; and

Whereas Ben Westlund, as a moderate Republican in 2005, bucked partisan divides and cosponsored legislation to give marriage-like rights to same-sex couples; and

Whereas Ben Westlund and his friend Senator Alan Bates, D.O., were the chief legislative advocates for health care reforms in 2007 that led to creation of the Oregon Health Authority; and

Whereas Ben Westlund cared deeply about Oregon and Oregonians, and championed legislation in 2007 to protect the Metolius River Basin, one of this state’s pristine natural areas; and

Whereas Ben Westlund authored consumer protection measures as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce in 2008; and

Whereas Ben Westlund was outgoing, kind-hearted and an incorrigible practical joke player, and spared no friends or colleagues from his whimsy; and

Whereas Ben Westlund was elected in 2008 as Oregon's 27th State Treasurer, becoming the only State Treasurer from east of the Cascades in recent memory; and

Whereas Ben Westlund, as State Treasurer, gained national attention for his efforts to expand investment transparency and to increase accountability in the Oregon 529 College Savings Program, and was instrumental in securing a \$20 million settlement in 2009 for families who were saving for their children's futures; and

Whereas during Ben Westlund's time in public service, he earned a reputation as a personable problem solver, a hands-on, collaborative and creative leader who sought always to bring out the best in his staff and those around him; and

Whereas Ben Westlund's work on behalf of all Oregonians was quite outmatched by his devotion to his family, as during his years in the Capitol he called home every night at 8:00 p.m. to wish his children good night; and

Whereas Ben Westlund spent his life in public service focusing his efforts on making a better Oregon for his children and all of Oregon's children; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, express our condolences to Ben Westlund's wife and children, express the sense of loss the Legislative Assembly and the Capitol community feel in the absence of that brightly burning fire—a colleague and a friend who resides here no longer—and express our sincere gratitude to Ben Westlund and honor him for his years of service to the Legislative Assembly, to the State Treasury and to all the residents of Oregon.

Adopted by House May 5, 2011

Ramona Kenady Line, Chief Clerk of House

Bruce Hanna, Speaker of House

Arnie Roblan, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 16, 2011

Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor

John Kitzhaber, Governor