

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 19

Sponsored by Senators ROSENBAUM, COURTNEY

## 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**.

In memoriam: Betty Roberts, 1923-2011.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2 Whereas Betty Roberts was one who defined an era in the history of this state, serving as a  
3 mentor and role model for many with strength, fairness, compassion and integrity; and

4 Whereas Betty Roberts was born in Arkansas City, Kansas, on February 5, 1923, spent much  
5 of her childhood in Texas and moved to Oregon after World War II; and

6 Whereas Betty Roberts attended Eastern Oregon University and graduated from Portland State  
7 College with a bachelor of science degree in education in 1958; and

8 Whereas Betty Roberts taught at Portland high schools and Mt. Hood Community College from  
9 1958 to 1967; and

10 Whereas Betty Roberts earned a master's degree in political science in 1962 and a law degree  
11 from Lewis and Clark Law School in 1966; and

12 Whereas Betty Roberts raised four children while pursuing her education, her teaching career  
13 and launching her political career; and

14 Whereas Betty Roberts was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1964, representing  
15 Multnomah County, and was re-elected in 1966; and

16 Whereas in 1968 Betty Roberts was elected to the Oregon Senate, where she was the only  
17 woman; and

18 Whereas in 1971, Betty Roberts was a cosponsor of the landmark Bottle Bill, the first bill of its  
19 kind in the nation and a model for similar legislation throughout the United States; and

20 Whereas Betty Roberts ran unsuccessfully for Governor of Oregon in 1974, but lost in the pri-  
21 mary to the person who would become Governor, Robert W. Straub; and

22 Whereas Governor Straub appointed Betty Roberts to the Oregon Court of Appeals in 1977,  
23 where she was the first woman to serve as appellate judge in the state's history; and

24 Whereas, when up for election to retain her position on the Court of Appeals, Betty Roberts  
25 overcame discrimination based on her gender and won the election to a full six-year term in 1978;  
26 and

27 Whereas Betty Roberts was appointed to the Oregon Supreme Court in 1982, again being the  
28 first woman in the history of the State of Oregon to serve on the Supreme Court; and

29 Whereas Justice Roberts authored many landmark opinions including establishing, in *Hewitt v.*  
30 *SAIF*, that men and women have equal rights under the Oregon Constitution; and

31 Whereas Justice Roberts retired from the Supreme Court in 1986 in order to spend time with  
32 her husband, Keith Skelton; 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 after retirement Betty Roberts continued to serve as a mediator and senior judge in  
2 this state; and

3       Whereas Betty Roberts received many awards for her unflagging commitment to equality and  
4 justice and for her leadership in promoting the role of women in the law and in politics; and

5       Whereas Betty Roberts died in Portland on June 25, 2011; now, therefore,

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

7       That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, express our gratitude for the  
8 lifelong commitment to justice, leadership in combating discrimination and selfless service of Betty  
9 Roberts on behalf of all Oregonians; and be it further

10       Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented with our condolences to Betty Roberts'  
11 children Dian, Jo, John and Randy.

12

---