

Senate Resolution 3

Sponsored by Senator ATKINSON; Senators BEYER, COURTNEY, GIROD

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**.

Recognizes significant figures in history of Oregon Senate and names certain Senate facilities after these distinguished individuals.

SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas the executive branch recognizes its significant historical figures by displaying portraits and busts of former Governors in the Capitol; and

Whereas the legislative branch, as a coequal branch of government, may recognize its significant historical figures in the Capitol; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly previously has recognized significant historical figures by naming the Senate wing the "Jason Boe Memorial Senate Wing" after former Senate President Jason Boe and the House wing the "Phil Lang Memorial House Wing" after former Speaker of the House of Representatives Phil Lang; and

Whereas the Senate's unique history can be recognized by honoring other significant historical figures who have served in the Oregon Senate or contributed to the history of the Capitol; and

Whereas the Oregon Senate values its unique history; and

Whereas visitors to the Capitol often visit the Senate and inquire about its history; and

Whereas the Senate wishes to recognize those who have played an important role in the Senate's history or the history of the Capitol; and

Senator W.H. (Bill) Strayer

Whereas W.H. (Bill) Strayer is the longest-serving state Senator in Oregon history, having represented Baker County in the Senate for nearly 32 years from January 11, 1915, to his death on October 18, 1946; and

Whereas Senator Strayer is believed to be the longest-serving state Senator in Oregon's second Capitol building, which was destroyed by fire on April 25, 1935; and

Whereas Senator Strayer was described in contemporary reports as a legislator "whose colleagues are all his friends" and as "one of the ablest thinkers and most impressive speakers in the upper house," who had the "ability to put through or defeat a measure by [use of] razor-keen logic or revealing ridicule alone"; and

Whereas another contemporary report described Senator Strayer as follows: "Give Bill Strayer a cause to champion, a sham to expose, or a grievance to protest and he is capable of swaying opinion as few other legislators have ever been able to do. Forensically, he can strike with the force of a 10-ton buzz bomb. When Bill really cuts loose on the floor it is an occasion no informed

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 legislator present under the dome willingly misses”; and

2 Whereas the corridor on the second floor behind the Senate Chamber is lined with photographs
3 of former members of the Senate, making it a gallery devoted to the history of the Senate; and

4 Whereas the “Senator W.H. (Bill) Strayer Gallery” is an appropriate name for this gallery be-
5 hind the Senate Chamber; and

6
7 **Senator Lenn Hannon**

8
9 Whereas Senator Lenn Hannon is the longest-serving state Senator in the current Capitol
10 building and the second longest-serving state Senator in Oregon history, having represented Ashland
11 in the Senate for over 29 years from January 13, 1975, to January 31, 2004; and

12 Whereas Senator Hannon was described in contemporary reports as a legislator with strong
13 leadership skills who was affable and “generous with his time and advice,” who “would not hesitate
14 to show his displeasure,” and who was “known for his close bipartisan friendships”; and

15 Whereas Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski described Senator Hannon upon his passing as fol-
16 lows: “Beyond his record in the Legislature, Lenn Hannon was a person who was respected by all
17 of those who knew him. He told it to you straight, something that was always appreciated by those
18 who worked with him, even when they didn’t necessarily agree on the issue”; and

19 Whereas the room located at the end of the corridor behind the Senate Chamber and imme-
20 diately to the east of the Senate Chamber’s north side aisle is associated with Senator Hannon be-
21 cause he would occasionally retire to this room during Senate floor sessions; and

22 Whereas the “Senator Lenn Hannon Reading Room” is an appropriate name for this room as-
23 sociated with Senator Hannon; and

24
25 **Senator Kathryn Clarke**

26
27 Whereas women in Oregon achieved the right to vote in 1912 and were first eligible to be
28 elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1914, six years before the Nineteenth Amendment to the
29 United States Constitution was ratified in 1920; and

30 Whereas Senator Kathryn Clarke is the first woman to serve in the Oregon Senate upon her
31 election in 1915 to represent Douglas County; and

32 Whereas Senator George Neuner Jr. was reelected to represent Douglas County in the 1914
33 election but resigned in early January 1915 to become the district attorney; and

34 Whereas Governor Oswald West offered the vacant seat to Douglas County Judge Dexter Rice,
35 but a controversy erupted over whether Governor West had the constitutional authority to make the
36 Senate appointment and Judge Rice declined the Senate seat; and

37 Whereas amid the constitutional controversy and need for a reliable appointee, Governor West
38 appointed his cousin, Kathryn Clarke, to fill the Senate seat; and

39 Whereas, given the questions over Governor West’s constitutional power to make the appoint-
40 ment, Douglas County scheduled a special election for January 20, 1915, to decide the matter; and

41 Whereas Senator Clarke then filed her candidacy for the office and ran for election to remove
42 any doubt about the legitimacy of her holding the Senate seat; and

43 Whereas after large public meetings and an endorsement from the local newspaper, Senator
44 Clarke won the election by 76 votes; and

45 Whereas Senator Clarke, along with other female elected officials, was profiled in the *Interna-*

1 *tional Woman Suffrage News* and the *Woman's Journal and Suffrage News* as a model for women
2 pursuing elected office after attaining the right to vote; and

3 Whereas in 1915, Senator Clarke joined the Oregon branch of the Congressional Union for
4 Woman Suffrage and began working for a women's suffrage amendment to the United States Con-
5 stitution, which was ratified in 1920; and

6 Whereas the room on the second floor immediately behind the Senate Chamber has historically
7 been a private room for members and staff to discuss matters of the day, accomplish tasks on behalf
8 of the public and keep belongings safe while performing official duties; and

9 Whereas the "Senator Kathryn Clarke Cloakroom" is an appropriate name for this room imme-
10 diately behind the Senate Chamber; and

11
12 **Senator Eugene Debbs Potts**

13
14 Whereas Senator Eugene Debbs Potts served in the Oregon Senate from 1961 to 1984, including
15 as President of the Senate from 1967 through 1970; and

16 Whereas as President of the Senate, Senator Potts served a total of 196 days as acting Governor
17 of Oregon when Governor Tom McCall traveled outside the state; and

18 Whereas during his tenure in the Senate, Senator Potts was known as "the man who would get
19 things done" and as "a gracious man with an agile mind"; and

20 Whereas Governor McCall called Senator Potts "one of the most decent public men,
21 anywhere"; and

22 Whereas Senator Lenn Hannon remembered Senator Potts as "one of a kind"; and

23 Whereas Senator Potts served on the Oregon State Lottery Commission from its creation in 1984
24 to his retirement in 2003; and

25 Whereas Senator Potts, while President of the Senate, occupied the office presently occupied by
26 the Secretary of the Senate; and

27 Whereas this office has in the past been dedicated with a plaque naming the office the "Debbs
28 Potts Conference Room," which is an appropriate name for this room; and

29
30 **Floyd G. McMullen**

31
32 Whereas Floyd G. McMullen, born on March 24, 1913, and a resident of Hermiston, was killed
33 fighting the blaze that destroyed Oregon's second Capitol on April 25, 1935; and

34 Whereas Mr. McMullen was a law student at Willamette University and a volunteer firefighter
35 at the time of the Capitol fire; and

36 Whereas Mr. McMullen was the only fatality caused by the Capitol blaze; and

37 Whereas parts of the ruins of the Capitol destroyed in 1935 are visible from the conference room
38 near the Senate Chamber in the northeast corner of the Capitol's second floor; and

39 Whereas this conference room is associated with Mr. McMullen because the conference room
40 is the customary meeting place of the Floyd McMullen Fire Brigade established in 2003, a society
41 devoted to Oregon history, public policy and public service; and

42 Whereas the "Floyd G. McMullen Conference Room" is an appropriate name for this conference
43 room; now, therefore,

44 **Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Oregon:**

45 That we, the members of the Senate of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, declare the fol-

1 lowing:

2 (1) The corridor on the second floor behind the Senate Chamber shall be known as the “Senator
3 W.H. (Bill) Strayer Gallery.”

4 (2) The room located at the end of the corridor behind the Senate Chamber and immediately to
5 the east of the Senate Chamber’s north side aisle shall be known as the “Senator Lenn Hannon
6 Reading Room.”

7 (3) The room immediately behind the Senate Chamber shall be known as the “Senator Kathryn
8 Clarke Cloakroom.”

9 (4) The office presently occupied by the Secretary of the Senate shall be known as the “Debbs
10 Potts Conference Room.”

11 (5) The conference room near the Senate Chamber in the northeast corner of the Capitol’s sec-
12 ond floor shall be known as the “Floyd G. McMullen Conference Room.”

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