

Please vote NO on HB 2387.

This bill authorizes the removal of the statue of Jason Lee, one of Oregon's Founders, from National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol, and replaces it with a statue of Mark Hatfield. While Mark Hatfield may have been a good man, he was not without his flaws. He was reprimanded by the Senate Ethics Committee for failure to report thousands of dollars of gifts from a friend. His wife also accepted a gift which he failed to report. Hatfield was a career politician (not a good thing, in my opinion!) and has already been honored in a multitude of ways. Among the buildings named in his honor were the Mark O. Hatfield Library at Willamette University in Salem, the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse in Portland, and the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. Enough already!

Jason Lee is a true part of Oregon's history. He came to Oregon as a missionary at a time when such a task was full of hardships. He then worked to get Oregon declared a territory, going back east to talk to government officials. He brought a party of settlers to Oregon and helped to found the city of Salem. He was also the founder of Willamette University.

The other Oregon statue in the U.S. Capitol is of John McLoughlin, a fur trader officer, businessman and physician known as the "Father of Oregon" and the first to govern the Oregon Country. I find it a bit interesting that this bill is trying to remove the missionary and not the businessman. Another attempt to separate us from our Christian heritage perhaps?

Leave our statues alone. Honor our history. Vote no on this bill.

Please add this to the public testimony on this legislation.

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