

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted
Vote:	8 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Barnhart, Berger, Dembrow, Holvey, Hoyle, Jenson, Kennemer, Garrett
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Hicks
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: In memoriam: Dr. Dean Brooks, 1916-2013.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Contributions of Dr. Brooks to people and families affected by mental illness
- Impact of Dr. Brooks on Oregon State Hospital
- His innovative approach to mental health care and dedication to his community

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Dr. Dean Brooks, the former superintendent of the Oregon State Hospital, died May 30, 2013 at the age of 96. Dr. Brooks was the superintendent at the State Hospital from 1955 to 1981, and while he did much to improve patient care during his tenure, he was best known for inviting the makers of the Oscar-winning film “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” into the hospital in 1974-75.

Dean Kent Brooks was born on July 22, 1916. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Kansas, Lawrence, and an M.D. from the university’s Kansas City, Kansas, campus. During World War II, he served in the Navy as a medical officer in the Pacific.

Dr. Brooks was known in his field as an innovator. His approach, unusual for its day, included letting patients wear their own clothes, rather than hospital uniforms, and taking patients on therapeutic trips into the wilderness. Dr. Brooks achieved even greater renown in the mid-1970s, after he agreed to let director Milos Forman film “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” on location at the hospital.

Dr. Brooks helped shape the film in many ways, including its depiction of several midcentury therapies, such as electroshock treatment and lobotomy. These therapies had fallen out of favor by the time the film was made, so Dr. Brooks insisted that the film be set in the early 1960s, instead of the 1970s. He also insisted on a disclaimer to the effect that, the film was not a true-to-life depiction of a modern psychiatric hospital. Dr. Brooks was criticized by some colleagues for allowing the filmmakers to use the hospital, but the benefits to the hospital’s patients, he said, were worth the intrusion. He secured jobs on the film, as extras and assistants to the crew, for 89 patients. “One patient was so emboldened by the responsibility that he permanently lost his stutter,” *The New York Times* wrote in 2000.

Governor Kitzhaber released the following statement on the passing of Dr. Brooks: “Dr. Brooks left a legacy of hope and recovery for the patients of Oregon State Hospital and their families. During his tenure, he worked tirelessly to help people across the state understand the challenges facing those who live with mental illness. He was an agent of change, committed to helping others make their lives better, and he will be greatly missed.”

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.