

# House Concurrent Resolution 23

Sponsored by Representative SPRENGER; Representatives GELSER, REARDON, Senators BEYER, EDWARDS, GIROD, JOHNSON, KNOPP, MONROE, STARR

## 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 service and sacrifices of atomic veterans.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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2       Whereas the United States government engaged in atmospheric and underwater nuclear weap-  
3       ons testing from July 16, 1945, to November 4, 1962, exposing nearly 200,000 United States military  
4       service members to unsafe levels of radiation; and

5       Whereas service members exposed to ionizing radiation due to participation in nuclear weapons  
6       testing became known as atomic veterans; and

7       Whereas atomic veterans were unable to discuss the nuclear weapons tests until the tests were  
8       declassified many years later; and

9       Whereas many atomic veterans died before they were able to seek veterans' benefits for their  
10      exposure to ionizing radiation; and

11      Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has identified more than 20 cancers  
12      and diseases associated with radiation exposure experienced by atomic veterans; and

13      Whereas many atomic veterans were exposed without their knowledge, their consent or any  
14      subsequent disclosure; and

15      Whereas atomic veterans served their country honorably and with distinction, dedication and  
16      self-sacrifice for the freedom of others; now, therefore,

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

18      That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, honor and recognize the  
19      selfless service and dedication of atomic veterans for their country.  
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**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.