

Enrolled
House Concurrent Resolution 8

Sponsored by Representative FREDERICK; Representatives BAILEY, BOONE, DOHERTY, HOYLE, KENY-GUYER, WITT (Pre-session filed.)

Whereas Clara Peoples grew up in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and came to Oregon with her family to work in the Kaiser shipyard; and

Whereas while working in the Kaiser shipyard in 1945, Clara Peoples introduced the celebration of Juneteenth to Portland by making an announcement to her fellow workers on the public address system; and

Whereas Juneteenth marks the anniversary of the day on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger read "General Order No. 3" in Galveston, Texas, declaring that all slaves were free; and

Whereas enforcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas, the last place where slavery was still being practiced in the United States, came more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863; and

Whereas Juneteenth is the oldest and most widely known celebration of African-American emancipation and a time for revival meetings, family reunions and celebrations of freedom; and

Whereas Clara Peoples joined with others in encouraging Senator Avel Gordly to sponsor Senate Joint Resolution 31 (2001), declaring Juneteenth to be a day for celebration statewide of the dignity and freedom of all citizens; and

Whereas Clara Peoples and her husband, Haley, lived in Vanport and lost their home in 1948 when a dike broke on the Columbia River and flooded the city; and

Whereas Clara Peoples and her family relocated to northeast Portland, where she quickly became aware that many residents of the neighborhood were going hungry; and

Whereas with the help of other volunteers, Clara Peoples began working to feed the hungry by organizing second harvests at local farms, finding and distributing surplus food from local farmers and other donors and even delivering food to individuals who were housebound or without transportation; and

Whereas Clara Peoples maintained that individuals and families should not have to sacrifice their dignity in order to receive assistance in times of need; and

Whereas in 1969 Clara Peoples organized her home-based food bank into the Community Care Association, a nonprofit that continues to provide food and clothing to low-income individuals today; and

Whereas the Community Care Association is considered to be one of the oldest and longest operating food banks in the United States; and

Whereas Clara Peoples is a beloved community elder whose generosity, compassion and dedication throughout her life have enriched the lives of those around her; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, commend and honor Clara Peoples for her cultural and humanitarian contributions to her community and this state.

Adopted by House February 27, 2013

Ramona J. Line, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate April 25, 2013

Peter Courtney, President of Senate