

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 12

Sponsored by Senators ROSENBAUM, WINTERS; Senators BAERTSCHIGER JR, BATES, BEYER, BOQUIST, BURDICK, CLOSE, COURTNEY, DEVLIN, DINGFELDER, EDWARDS, FERRIOLI, GEORGE, GIROD, HANSELL, HASS, JOHNSON, KNOPP, KRUSE, MONNES ANDERSON, OLSEN, PROZANSKI, SHIELDS, STARR, STEINER HAYWARD, THOMSEN, WHITSETT

Whereas Tom Whelan ably served his state and community during more than 30 years of public service, including a term in the Oregon House of Representatives; and

Whereas Tom Whelan's public service also included a career as a Salem firefighter, from which he retired in 1998 as a captain; and

Whereas in addition to working as a firefighter, Tom Whelan served as a lobbyist for the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council and as the vice president and contract negotiator for his union; and

Whereas Tom Whelan worked as a lobbyist to improve retirement benefits for firefighters in this state; and

Whereas Tom Whelan also served as vice chair of the Public Employees Retirement Board; and

Whereas Tom Whelan served as a citizen representative to the board of trustees of the Fire and Police Disability and Retirement Fund and the budget committee of Portland Fire and Rescue; and

Whereas Tom Whelan's early years were also marked by accomplishment, including his college years as an English major at Willamette University and his membership on the Bearcats football team; and

Whereas Tom Whelan led the Bearcats to the national semifinals in 1968; and

Whereas Tom Whelan led a personal life rich in humor and love for the arts, history, poetry, science and woodworking; and

Whereas Tom Whelan authored the children's book *Rudy*, about a firefighter who rescued a cat stuck in a tree, and read the book to students as a volunteer for Read Across America; and

Whereas Tom Whelan's crowning personal achievement was his contribution to the enactment in 2007 of laws limiting cigarette sales in Oregon to fire-safe cigarettes, which he fought to pass for three years; and

Whereas Tom Whelan also fought against alcoholism and diabetes, helping several friends overcome their addictions with his loving intervention and support; and

Whereas Tom Whelan died suddenly of heart failure related to his diabetes; and

Whereas Tom Whelan was the son of former State Representative Edward Whelan and proud father of actress Julia Whelan; and

Whereas Tom Whelan also leaves behind his first wife, Lillian Bladine, his second wife, Laurie Wimmer, and two step-children, Riley and Griffin Wimminger; and

Whereas Tom Whelan will be remembered as a humble, self-deprecating man who genuinely loved people and loved hearing their stories; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, honor and celebrate Tom Whelan for his extraordinary life and devotion to public service; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented to Tom Whelan's family as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

Adopted by Senate March 26, 2013

Robert Taylor, Secretary of Senate

Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House May 23, 2013

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House