

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

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**.

In memoriam: Tom Whelan, 1948-2012.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Tom Whelan ably served his state and community during more than 30 years of public
3 service, including a term in the Oregon House of Representatives; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

8
