

Senate Concurrent Resolution 20

Sponsored by Senators COURTNEY, WINTERS

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: Dr. Dean Brooks, 1916-2013.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Dean Kent Brooks was born in Colony, Kansas, on July 22, 1916, attended the Uni-
3 versity of Kansas, Lawrence, earned an M.D. from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and
4 served in the United States Navy as a medical officer in the Pacific Theater during World War II;
5 and

6 Whereas Dr. Brooks was the superintendent of the Oregon State Hospital from 1955 to 1981; and

7 Whereas in 1974 Dr. Brooks made the decision to allow filming of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's*
8 *Nest* at the Oregon State Hospital, a film that went on to win five Academy Awards in 1976, in-
9 cluding Best Picture; and

10 Whereas Dr. Brooks played the role of Dr. Spivey, who performed the intake interview with
11 Randle McMurphy, played by Jack Nicholson; and

12 Whereas though Dr. Brooks was criticized by some colleagues for his decision to allow
13 filmmakers into the Oregon State Hospital, he felt that the experience would be therapeutic and fi-
14 nancially advantageous for patients, who were able to work on the film as crew members and extras;
15 and

16 Whereas Dr. Brooks hoped that the public would view the film as an allegory and took steps to
17 ensure film audiences would understand that depictions of practices such as electroshock therapy
18 and lobotomy did not reflect the practices of modern psychiatric hospitals; and

19 Whereas Dr. Brooks did much to improve patient care during his tenure and was known as an
20 innovator in his field; and

21 Whereas Dr. Brooks never had a single complaint filed against him in his long and distinguished
22 career as a psychiatrist; and

23 Whereas Dr. Brooks was an advocate against the dehumanization of patients, which he observed
24 occurring often in mental institutions, nursing homes, correctional institutions, Indian reservations
25 and the military; and

26 Whereas Dr. Brooks was behind the creation of a task force, composed of patients, staff and
27 community members, that identified 25 realms of life at the Oregon State Hospital in which patients
28 could have more input and personalization; and

29 Whereas in 1972 Dr. Brooks pioneered the "eco-therapy" program at the Oregon State Hospital
30 in which 51 long-term patients at the hospital went on a 16-day wilderness trip, led by Lute Jerstad,
31 one of the first Americans to climb Mt. Everest; and

32 Whereas the "eco-therapy" program experiment was chronicled by Life Magazine and spurred

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 many patients on to recovery; and

2 Whereas for Dr. Brooks, the patient always came first; and

3 Whereas after a distinguished career, Dr. Brooks died at the age of 96 on May 30, 2013; now,
4 therefore,

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

6 That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, honor Dean Brooks for his
7 pioneering and compassionate work in the field of psychiatry and express our heartfelt condolences
8 to his family and friends.

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