

**Enrolled**  
**House Concurrent Resolution 203**

Sponsored by Representative HUFFMAN, Senator FERRIOLI (Pre-session filed.)

Whereas county fairs have been a longstanding tradition in Oregon and the United States; and  
Whereas county fairs are a gathering place for communities to discover the latest in technology and best practices in agriculture and business; and

Whereas county fairs are a place where local youth can participate in educational programs such as 4-H and where opportunities for personal growth abound; and

Whereas Wasco County has a long history of fairs dating back to 1869; and

Whereas the first evidence of a fair in Tygh Valley was in 1912, and it was like a family picnic at Van Duyn Park, just below the Tygh Creek Bridge; and

Whereas a similar event was held the following year, and in 1914 French Butler organized an informal committee to consider holding a regular fair; and

Whereas by consensus of the committee, the location of the annual event that would become the Wasco County Fair was moved to a property known as the "upper 40," then owned by William H. McAtee; and

Whereas farmers and merchants sold stock to be able to purchase the property from William H. McAtee so that it could become the Southern Wasco County Fairgrounds; and

Whereas when funds ran out for required improvements and taxes due, the property was foreclosed upon; and

Whereas William E. Hunt was part of the committee that met to consider how to reopen the fair after the foreclosure; and

Whereas William E. Hunt believed in promoting the welfare and education of children, especially through the 4-H program, as it was the means by which many children who could not afford to attend college were educated; and

Whereas when the committee could not come to agreement, William E. Hunt decided to assume the mortgage himself and pay the back taxes on the property so that the fair could reopen; and

Whereas in addition to building structures on the property for fair use, William E. Hunt paid many fair-related costs out of his own pocket, including prize money; and

Whereas at a meeting of the Fair Board in 1937, William E. Hunt made it known in a surprise statement that if Wasco County assumed responsibility for the fair going forward, he would donate the property to be used as the Wasco County Fairgrounds; and

Whereas though William E. Hunt passed away shortly after his announcement, his wife and heirs carried out his wishes that the property be donated for use as a fairgrounds in perpetuity, and the property was named Hunt Memorial Park in his honor; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, recognize that the property known as Hunt Memorial Park has been the home of the Wasco County Fair since 1914.

Adopted by House February 5, 2014

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Ramona J. Line, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate February 20, 2014

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate