

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER: Sen. Whitsett

Senate Committee On Rules

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/05/15

Action: Be Adopted.

Meeting Dates: 05/05

Vote:

Yeas: 3 - Boquist, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum

Exc: 2 - Beyer, Burdick

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Commends Dr. Donald R. Pettit for his career and achievements on Earth and in space.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Life of Dr. Pettit
- Career and achievements as scientist and astronaut
- Amount of time Dr. Pettit spent in space

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Donald R. Pettit was born in 1955 in Silverton, Oregon and graduated from Silverton Union High School in 1973. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from Oregon State University in 1978 and a Doctor of Philosophy in chemical engineering from the University of Arizona in 1983.

He began his career as a staff scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in 1984, where he participated in work involving reduced gravity fluid flow and materials processing onboard the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) KC-135 airplane, atmospheric spectroscopy on noctilucent clouds seeded from sounding rockets, fumarole gas sampling from volcanoes and problems in detonation physics.

In 2002, Dr. Pettit made his first space flight as NASA International Space Station Science Officer on Expedition 6, where he resided from November 23, 2002, to May 3, 2003. He took part in two additional space flights, including STS-126 Endeavour, which returned to Earth after completing 250 orbits of more than six million miles between November 14, 2008 and November 30, 2008, and Expedition 30/31, which orbited the Earth 3,088 times and traveled more than 76 million miles, from December 21, 2011 to July 1, 2012.

House Concurrent Resolution 18 honors Dr. Donald Pettit for his achievements on Earth and in space and commends his work toward furthering human scientific endeavor during his more than 370 days in space.