

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 06/23/15

**Action:** Be Adopted.

**Meeting Dates:** 06/23

**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum

Exc: 1 - Beyer

**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

In memoriam: Edward J. Whelan, 1926-2015.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Life of Ed Whelan
- Career as firefighter
- Work in legislature, role as consensus builder and fostering bipartisan relationships
- Importance of family to Ed

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Edward J. Whelan, a tireless and lifelong advocate for working people, passed away on May 7, 2015.

Whelan was born on January 11, 1926, in Portland, Oregon. He served in the United States Army Air Corps in World War II and was promoted to the rank of Major in the Korean War. He attended the University of Portland and the University of Oregon before joining the Portland Fire Bureau, where he served as a firefighter and later as the President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council.

In 1959, he was elected to the Oregon State House of Representatives, representing his district in North Portland until 1965. Known as an effective communicator and a consensus builder, he played a major role in the creation of the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon, or Tri-Met, and served on the Tri-Met Board of Directors, in addition to being appointed by Governor Tom McCall as the first Director of the Economic Development Department. After his time in office, he served as the President of the Capitol Club in 1970 and 1971.

He was predeceased by two wives and his two sons, Steve and Tom, and is survived by his daughter, Sue Spooner, and granddaughter, Julia Whelan.

House Concurrent Resolution 32 honors the life and service of Edward J. Whelan.