

Dolores Atiyeh Testimony SCR 15

Good afternoon, my name is Chad Hawkins, husband to Sonia Atiyeh Hawkins who is the granddaughter of former Governor Victor Atiyeh and his wife Dolores. Sonia and I are here to show support for SCR 15 and to recognize a truly inspirational person. Dolores's acknowledgement here speaks volumes about the impact that this wonderful woman had on all who knew her and the State of Oregon.

Dolores accomplished so much over the years through the eyes of the public. She was a volunteer with numerous organizations, was a dedicated advocate for children and young adults, and supported safety through immunizations and seat belt laws. In her personal life, she was artistic and a perfectionist in her many crafts she mastered over the years. She shared these crafts with her grandchildren and regularly encouraged them to learn a variety of skills. She taught them how to make things with their own hands, to sew, to cook, and to never let anything go to waste or remain unmended. In addition to all of this, she valued every arena of study from music to science.

She always wanted to be learning. She worked hard to pay for her college education on her own, and she always said "You never regret your education. Your education is something that no one can take away from you." She studied art and among many artistic mediums was an especially talented painter. Whether they were ornately painted pictures, jewelry boxes, or rocking chairs, they were all perfectly done and with superior attention to detail. She and Vic shared an appreciation for history. She enjoyed reading about the pioneers who settled in Oregon and the history of the tribes of Oregon. As a hobby, she made study of her ancestry and traced family back to the Revolutionary War. She had a keen memory for detail and knew not only her own family history, but that of Vic's. She also made Victor's family traditions her own, and was a fantastic cook of Syrian food. She passed that skill on to Sonia, which I'm very thankful for as I had never had hummus or middle eastern food..... now im addicted and would be lost without it.

When I met Dolores nearly 10 years ago, she amazed me the first time I met her. She was sharp as a tack and with a ~~say~~ wit to match my own. She had a sharp sense of humor and amazing memory. She was able to discuss fire equipment and emergency responses I had been on recently with a surprising depth of knowledge and detail. She attributed it to listening to the workers at the mine, where she lived as a little girl, discuss the mining equipment. Victor on the other hand, wanted to know if I had used the lights and sirens lately and how fast I went to the call (like a bright eyed little boy who saw a fire engine for the first time). When he passed away, I made sure that he had a proper send off with fire trucks and police cars..... of course with their lights going, Dolores was happy with that.

She shared a passion for the state of Oregon with Vic. She would always talk of the natural beauty of Oregon; the forests, the coast..and the kindness of the people. When we lived in California, Sonia and I would visit Oregon often, and each time we would visit, Dolores would say, "You know.. Oregon is the best place to call home." It is truly a great honor for Dolores to be recognized by the state she loved so dearly.