

Testimony April 12, 2017

In support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 15

In memoriam: Dolores Hewitt Atiyeh, 1923 -2016

My name is Tom Atiyeh, son of Governor Victor Atiyeh and First Lady Dolores Hewitt Atiyeh.

I wish to thank Senate President Courtney and Senator Winters for sponsoring this resolution and the Oregon State Capitol Foundation for facilitation.

Members of the committee; I understand there is a similar Senate Concurrent Resolution for Pat Straub. I applaud this and reflect upon a different civil era where we all worked for the best interest of Oregon.

The Atiyeh family became part of Oregon in 1900 and 58 years later the son of a Syrian emigrant was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives beginning his first term during the 1959 Centennial year.

The Hewitt family came to Oregon after World War I and my grandfather established mining claims in the North Fork of the Santiam. In 1996 through the direction of Senator Mark Hatfield these mining claims became part of the 35,000-acre Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area.

Dolores Hewitt Atiyeh was certainly not lacking for participation in Oregon's history and future, but her main task was keeping my sister and I under tow in those early years; no easy task.

As you can see by the many accolades she was an advocate, volunteer and board member to numerous arts, philanthropic and cultural organizations.

One of these organization, the Historic Preservation League of Oregon was of keen interest to my mom. HPLO was founded just two years before Governor Atiyeh's first term and my mom served as an advisor, particularly when she found marble remnants of the old state capitol in Mill Creek near their residence on Winter Street. I say "residence" loosely because those were the days before Mahonia Hall and their residence was a house converted to a state office building and then back to a house. There was little budget for hosting or entertaining but she did the best with what she had.

Although I followed my dad's business in sales of hand-knotted rugs, in recent years I have been active in Oregon's nonprofit community. In 2013 I was hired to become the Chief Development Office of the Historic Preservation League of Oregon. HPLO was a mouthful so we rebranded as Restore Oregon and I applied my mother's