

SCR 29 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Holvey

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 06/14/17
Action: Be Adopted.
Vote: 6-0-3-0
Yeas: 6 - Hack, Holvey, Kennemer, McLane, Nosse, Williamson
Exc: 3 - Barreto, Rayfield, Smith Warner
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Erin Seiler, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Honors Dr. Edwin "Ed" Coleman, 1932-2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Life of Ed Coleman
- Passion for music; performing with renowned jazz musicians
- Commitment to civil rights and fighting racial injustice

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Edwin "Ed" Coleman was born in El Dorado, Arkansas, in 1932. He lived a multi-faceted life as a university professor, musician, civil rights leader, activist, veteran, father, husband, storyteller, author, Ducks fan and active member of his community. Dr. Coleman served in the United States Air Force Reserve during the Korean War and subsequently graduated from San Francisco State College with a degree in theater. During his time in the military and in college, he learned to play the acoustic bass. His passion for music and notable talent as a jazz musician afforded him the opportunity to perform professionally and share a stage with renowned musicians such as Ella Fitzgerald, the Kingston Trio, and Peter, Paul and Mary.

In 1966, he moved to Eugene with his wife, Charmaine, to complete a Doctorate in theater at the University of Oregon (UO). In 1971, Dr. Coleman was hired as an assistant professor in the English Department at UO, where he enjoyed a 30-year career teaching folklore and ethnic studies. He established the UO's African-American literature program and lead the University to create a racially diverse literature curriculum. In addition, Dr. Coleman served as a source of wisdom and support for thousands of students and instructed them "to always think twice, and always have more compassion toward others, and always do what's right, no matter how hard it is."

He was a defender of civil rights and sought to fight racial injustice with a sense of reasoned wisdom and thoughtful discourse. Dr. Coleman served on many UO committees in furtherance of that cause, including the President's Committee on Race, the Affirmative Action Search Committee and the Committee on Curriculum Integration. He also lent his service to the Lane Arts Council, Oregon Arts Foundation, Oregon Folklore Society, Circle Poetry Forum and the Northwest Journal of African and Afro-American Studies. Ed Coleman has won several awards for his work and contributions, including the Frederick Douglas Scholarship Award, the Charles E. Johnson Memorial Award, the Outstanding Faculty Award and the Most Honored Professor Award. In 1991, the City of Eugene awarded him the Martin Luther King Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Edwin "Ed" Coleman passed away at the age of 84 on January 20, 2017 and is survived by his wife, Charmaine, his two sons, Edwin and Callan, and his two grandchildren. Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 honors, celebrates and

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expresses appreciation for Dr. Edwin "Ed" Coleman and his accomplishments in academics and music and his legacy of work for justice and equality.