

Senate Concurrent Resolution 16

Sponsored by Senator COURTNEY; Senator BURDICK

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

In memoriam: Pat Straub, 1923-2016.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Lana Laine Patricia “Pat” Stroud Straub, adopted Oregonian and wife of Governor Bob
3 Straub, was born on March 11, 1923, in Villanova, Pennsylvania, and passed away at the age of 93
4 on September 24, 2016, in Springfield, Oregon; and

5 Whereas Pat Straub, orphaned in her teens and brought up by her stepfather, was raised a
6 debutante in a wealthy Philadelphia-area family and attended Smith College in Northampton,
7 Massachusetts; and

8 Whereas Pat Straub first met a fit, young Bob Straub on the trail to Mount Moosilauke in New
9 Hampshire in the summer of 1941, when she was leading a hike of youthful summer campers to
10 Summit Lodge, owned by Dartmouth College, where he was working; and

11 Whereas after a whirlwind soldier's courtship, Pat and Bob Straub were married on September
12 12, 1943, in San Antonio, Texas, where he was stationed for officer training in the United States
13 Army Quartermaster Corps, and they enjoyed 59 years of marriage, establishing a trusted partner-
14 ship based upon true love and devotion, before his death in 2002; and

15 Whereas after completing his master's degree at Dartmouth College, Bob Straub took a mana-
16 gerial job at the new Weyerhaeuser mill being built in Springfield, Oregon, and the couple settled
17 there in 1947; and

18 Whereas Pat Straub became a young mother of six lively, athletic and individualistic children
19 and transformed herself, with the help of her new family and her own ingenuity, from a debutante
20 to a knowledgeable gardener and mother; and

21 Whereas while raising her family in the Thurston area of Springfield, Pat Straub became con-
22 vinced of the value of organic farming and famously “tortured” her family to good health with
23 brewer's yeast and other healthy foods; and

24 Whereas after moving to the West Salem hills, Pat Straub continued to develop her mastery of
25 organic farming and healthy eating and cooking—including wonderful home-cooked meals prepared
26 for family and guests on a wood burning stove in their farmhouse—eventually incorporating her
27 knowledge into book form in *From the Loving Earth*, published in 1974; and

28 Whereas Pat and Bob Straub continued to enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, swimming and
29 rafting on weekends with their family and friends, often in conjunction with their expanding farming,
30 ranching and logging business activities throughout Oregon; and

31 Whereas Pat and Bob Straub frequently took long car-camping road trips around the United
32 States and annually, over the Christmas holiday, traveled with family and friends to their favorite

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 spot on the beach north of Guaymas, Mexico; and

2 Whereas Pat Straub, in contrast to her politician husband, who was less comfortable in public
3 presentations, was a political natural in public settings but had little patience for the political pro-
4 cess; and

5 Whereas Pat Straub was, nevertheless, a fierce advocate for her husband's career and a strong
6 believer in his political and social vision as Bob Straub advanced in political office as Lane County
7 Commissioner, State Senator, State Democratic Party Chair, State Treasurer and, finally, Governor;
8 and

9 Whereas Pat Straub gracefully expanded her public presence in her role as Oregon's First Lady
10 from 1975 to 1979, hosting dignitaries in her farmhouse home, initiating the first Governor's Run in
11 Salem and penning a periodic column, "Letters Home," published throughout the state, in which she
12 shared some of the personal and official activities of a Governor's wife; and

13 Whereas Pat Straub served as private gatekeeper, speech proofreader and environmental advo-
14 cate for her husband while he was Governor and later carried the environmentalist banner proudly
15 herself as a member of the State Board of Forestry in the 1980s; and

16 Whereas in addition to enjoying time with friends and family, Pat Straub pursued her life-long
17 love of reading and gardening, as well as her newer avocation of landscape watercolor painting, in
18 her retirement with Bob and after his death; and

19 Whereas Pat and Bob Straub donated a 10-acre plot of old-growth forest near their West Salem
20 home to the City of Salem, which is now the undeveloped Bob and Pat Straub Nature Park, adjacent
21 to the Robert W. Straub Middle School; and

22 Whereas environmental educators began forming the Bob and Pat Straub Environmental Learn-
23 ing Center in 1998—currently with two facilities, one located next to North Salem High School and
24 another at the Willamette Heritage Center, which have provided environmental educational pro-
25 grams for Mid-Willamette Valley students of all ages for nearly two decades—naming the center
26 after two of Oregon's most beloved environmentalists; and

27 Whereas Pat Straub is survived by five children, 14 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and
28 three great-great-grandchildren and outlived one child, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild;
29 and

30 Whereas public services for Pat Straub were lovingly held by family and friends on October 22,
31 2016, at the Northwest Youth Corps Center in Eugene; now, therefore,

32 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

33 That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, express our deep respect and
34 gratitude for Pat Straub's commitment and support as a strong partner to Governor Bob Straub and
35 for her dedication and passion as a public servant working toward a better Oregon for all of its
36 residents; and be it further

37 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Pat Straub's sons, Jeff Straub of Ashland and
38 Mike Straub of Eugene, and daughters, Jane Straub of Springfield, Patty Thomas of Curtin and Peg
39 Straub of Springfield.

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