

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 29

Sponsored by Senators MANNING JR, PROZANSKI, Representative HOLVEY; Senator BEYER, Representatives FAHEY, LIVELY, NATHANSON

## 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: Dr. Edwin "Ed" Coleman, 1932-2017.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2       Whereas Dr. Edwin "Ed" Coleman was born in El Dorado, Arkansas, in 1932 and later moved  
3 with his family to Alameda, California; and

4       Whereas Ed Coleman lived a rich and varied life as a university professor, musician, civil rights  
5 activist, husband, father, veteran, author, Ducks fan, storyteller and active member of his commu-  
6 nity; and

7       Whereas Ed Coleman served in the United States Air Force Reserve during the Korean War;  
8 and

9       Whereas Ed Coleman graduated from San Francisco State College with a degree in theater and  
10 taught the subject there and at Chico State College; and

11       Whereas Ed Coleman's lifelong passion for music was set when, at the age of six, he fell in love  
12 with the violin and began lessons; and

13       Whereas at college and in the military, Ed Coleman learned to play the acoustic bass, and he  
14 enjoyed a career as a professional musician while also teaching theater; and

15       Whereas Ed Coleman's talent as a jazz musician granted him the opportunity to play onstage  
16 with such famous performers as Vince Guaraldi, Ella Fitzgerald, Mel Tormé, the Kingston Trio, Cal  
17 Tjader and Peter, Paul and Mary; and

18       Whereas Ed Coleman moved with his wife, Charmaine, to Eugene in 1966 and earned his doc-  
19 torate in theater at the University of Oregon, writing his dissertation on the plays of Langston  
20 Hughes; and

21       Whereas Ed Coleman was first hired at the University of Oregon's English department as an  
22 assistant professor in 1971 and went on to be an inspiring leader in the English department and the  
23 folklore and ethnic studies programs for more than three decades; and

24       Whereas Ed Coleman provided wisdom and support to thousands of students and gave gener-  
25 ously of his time as a dissertation advisor for students in English, music, education, special educa-  
26 tion and psychology; and

27       Whereas one former student recalled that, in addition to the regular curriculum, Ed Coleman  
28 imparted his personal philosophy, instructing his students "to always think twice, and always have  
29 more compassion toward others, and always do what's right, no matter how hard it is"; and

30       Whereas Ed Coleman started the University of Oregon's first African-American literature pro-  
31 gram and was responsible for guiding the university toward a more racially diverse literature cur-

**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 riculum; and

2 Whereas Ed Coleman was a staunch defender of civil rights and served on many University of  
3 Oregon committees to forward that cause, including the President’s Committee on Race, the Affir-  
4 mative Action Search Committee and the Committee on Curriculum Integration, and he also served  
5 as an advisor at the Black Student Union and Cultural Center; and

6 Whereas whether at the university or in the larger community, Ed Coleman fought racial in-  
7 justice with reasoned wisdom and thoughtful discourse; and

8 Whereas Ed Coleman’s involvement in the civil rights movement afforded him the opportunity  
9 to meet Martin Luther King, Jr., and discuss civil rights with author James Baldwin; and

10 Whereas well-known for his empathy and compassion, Ed Coleman believed that “in all of his-  
11 tory, in all of literature, what we are seeking is an understanding of the human spirit, the human  
12 condition”; and

13 Whereas Ed Coleman’s interests were wide and he generously gave of himself to his community,  
14 near and far; and

15 Whereas Ed Coleman served as a track and field official for the University of Oregon; and

16 Whereas Ed Coleman was president of the Oregon Folklore Society and a contributing editor for  
17 the Circle Poetry Forum and the Northwest Journal of African and Afro-American Studies; and

18 Whereas Ed Coleman served on the Lane Arts Council, the Oregon Arts Foundation and the  
19 Western States Art Foundation; and

20 Whereas Ed Coleman acted as a consultant for the National Endowment for the Arts and, at the  
21 local level, for the Committee on Hate Crimes and the Committee on Prevention of Gang Activity;  
22 and

23 Whereas Ed Coleman’s awards include the Frederick Douglass Scholarship Award, the Charles  
24 E. Johnson Memorial Award and, from the university’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, which also  
25 named its annual lecture series after him, the Outstanding Faculty Award and the Most Honored  
26 Professor Award; and

27 Whereas in 1991, the City of Eugene awarded Ed Coleman the Martin Luther King, Jr., Lifetime  
28 Achievement Award; and

29 Whereas after his retirement in 1998, Ed Coleman continued to teach but left enough time to  
30 pursue music, photography, writing and advocacy in social causes; and

31 Whereas Ed Coleman’s warm personality, kindness, outspoken wisdom and love for all people  
32 made him a beloved figure at the university and in the community at large; and

33 Whereas Ed Coleman’s son Callan said that his father “would want people to know that he was  
34 kicking till the very end — kicking, jamming, laughing and loving”; and

35 Whereas Ed Coleman died on January 20, 2017, at the age of 84 and is survived by his wife,  
36 Charmaine, his two sons, Edwin and Callan, and two grandchildren; now, therefore,

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

38 That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, honor, celebrate and express  
39 our appreciation for Dr. Edwin “Ed” Coleman and his numerous accomplishments in academics and  
40 music and his legacy of work for justice and equality.

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