

DRAFT

SUMMARY

In memoriam: Former state Representative Robert Eugene “Bob” Jenson, 1931-2018.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Robert Eugene “Bob” Jenson was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 11, 1931, to Charles and Oral Jenson; and

Whereas Bob Jenson served his country for four years in the United States Air Force and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal; and

Whereas Bob Jenson graduated from Montana State University in 1967 with a master’s degree in sociology and United States history; and

Whereas Bob Jenson met his future wife, Evelyn Bruns, at a teachers’ training course in Colorado, and they were married on November 12, 1971; and

Whereas Bob Jenson taught high school for four years and was a history professor at Blue Mountain Community College for 26 years until his retirement in 1993; and

Whereas Bob Jenson served as a delegate to the White House Conference on Families in 1980 and was an Eastern Oregon Regional Airport Commissioner from 1988 to 1996 and a member of the Pendleton Transportation Plan Advisory Committee from 1995 to 1996; and

Whereas in 1996, Bob Jenson was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives, where in the course of his career he represented the people of Umatilla, Morrow, Union and Wallowa Counties, first from House District

1 57 and later from House District 58; and

2 Whereas Bob Jenson chaired and served on nine major committees during
3 his 18 years of service, lending his leadership and expertise to major legis-
4 lation related to education, senior services, mental health, water resources
5 and agriculture; and

6 Whereas Bob Jenson had the distinction of being elected from his district
7 once as a Democrat, once as an Independent and seven times as a Republican
8 and was renowned as a voice of moderation and civility in the House of
9 Representatives; and

10 Whereas Bob Jenson was widely respected by his colleagues for his in-
11 telligence, courage and integrity; and

12 Whereas at the time of his retirement in 2015, Bob Jenson was the
13 longest-serving member of the House of Representatives, holding the honor-
14 ary title of Dean of the House; and

15 Whereas Bob Jenson served as president of the Peace Lutheran Church
16 council and as chairman of the local Gideons International chapter; and

17 Whereas Bob Jenson was an avid card player who earned the distinction
18 of being a Life Master in bridge; and

19 Whereas in retirement Bob Jenson enjoyed spending time at his family's
20 cabin in Lostine, Oregon, reading (especially history), going on Alaskan
21 fishing trips and watching sports; and

22 Whereas Bob and Evelyn Jenson lived in Pendleton, Oregon, for nearly
23 50 years; and

24 Whereas Bob Jenson passed away on January 6, 2018, surrounded by his
25 family at his Pendleton home; and

26 Whereas Bob Jenson is survived by his beloved wife, Evelyn Jenson, his
27 four children and their spouses, Robert and Delores Jenson, Linda and Victor
28 Gehling, Charles and Patti Jenson and Carol and Jim Aldrich, 11 grandchil-
29 dren and 13 great-grandchildren; and

30 Whereas Bob Jenson will be remembered as a true gentleman, a great
31 statesman and a selfless and dedicated public servant; now, therefore,

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

2 That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, honor
3 the life and accomplishments of Bob Jenson and express our gratitude for
4 his contributions to the people of this state; and be it further

5 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family
6 of Bob Jenson as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

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