

## HCR 32 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Rules

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**Prepared By:** Josh Nasbe, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 3/25

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Honors the life and accomplishments of Grattan Kerans and expresses gratitude for his contributions to the people of this state.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Former Speaker of the House and state Senator Grattan Kerans was a great statesman who dedicated decades of public service to the City of Eugene, Lane County and the State of Oregon, until he passed away on January 16, 2019.

Grattan Kerans was born in Washington, D.C., on January 2, 1941, to Edwin Grattan Kerans, a renowned dentist, and Anne Kelley Kerans, a lawyer and Democratic Party activist. From an early age Grattan Kerans was motivated by the idea of public service, having been inspired by his grandfather, Eugene Grattan Kerans, who served in several prominent positions in the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. After high school he attended Montgomery College in Maryland and was making salt water taffy on the boardwalk in Ocean City, Maryland, when he met his future wife, Janet Holsclaw. They married in 1965 and, four years later, moved to Oregon to attend the University of Oregon where Grattan majored in political science and served as editor of the campus newspaper, the Daily Emerald.

While he held several other jobs as a journalist and remained an ardent supporter of freedom of the press, he was drawn to public service and began working as a staff member on task forces for Oregon's Legislative Assembly. In 1974, Grattan Kerans was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives as a Democrat representing Eugene where he served five terms. During his time in the House, he was named Majority Whip, elected Majority Leader twice, and in 1983, he was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. Grattan Kerans was also elected to the Oregon Senate from Lane County and he served there for seven years, chairing the Committee on Labor and the Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Campaign Finance Reform. During his tenure in the legislature, he focused on advancing the rights and dignity of workers and many labor laws he worked to pass became national models.

Grattan Kerans was renowned for his great sense of humor and he was an outstanding orator, a gifted political and legislative strategist and an artful advocate. In addition to his own public service, he mentored many who followed him into public service and inspired countless others in the fight for social and economic justice. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Janet Raye Holsclaw Kerans, son, Tim Kerans, daughter-in-law, Khiota Therrien, granddaughter, Mabel, sister, Mary-Ann Jackson, and brother-in-law, Dwight Jackson.

House Concurrent Resolution 32 honors the life and accomplishments of Grattan Kerans and expresses gratitude for his contributions to the people of this state.