

HCR 32 Testimony from Family of Former Speaker and Senator Grattan Kerans

On behalf of the family of Grattan Kerans, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to this committee and to the Oregon Legislative Assembly for this special recognition of his public service. We all knew how happy he was to be serving the people of Oregon, through his representation from Eugene. And how pleased he was for the victories he was able to achieve in their behalf. He never tired of employing his quick wit and eloquence in the advocacy of or dissension from the provisions of a bill.

You who are elected members of the Oregon Legislature today honor him simply by continuing in the long-standing tradition of honest, principled service to this State. Thank you so very much for that! Grattan would be so glad to see you here.

Janet Kerans

Tim Kerans



Business photo by Tom Cooper

Home Majority Leader Grattan Kerans drew scores of double-takes and inquiries about his health Thursday after he took to a wheelchair to dramatize the barriers that paraplegics face every day. Pictured here with Kerans are Republican state Reps. Mary Burrows, a fellow Eugene resident, and Ted Arltman, of West Linn.



Lawmakers learn barriers first hand

By SUE HILL
Special Business Report
House Majority Leader Grattan Kerans substituted wheels for his legs Thursday and discovered, he said, that life in the Capitol became as logistical as political.
The Eugene Democrat was one of several lawmakers who spent all or part of the day in wheelchairs in homage to Architectural Barriers Week.
"It's been depressing, or, I should say limiting," said Kerans, the only lawmaker who managed to stay in his wheelchair all day. "I've had difficulty getting around. Doors are a problem. Carpets are a problem. Bathrooms are a problem. I had to stop and think before going anywhere."
Kerans said at least 200 people stopped to ask him if he had been in an accident.
He is sponsor of several bills that would ease barriers to those confined in wheelchairs.
Rep. Wayne Fawbush, D-Hood River, took to his chair after lunch.
"I honestly don't think I could have done it all day," he explained on Monday morning. "Have you every been in one of these things and tried to do anything. I discovered that I couldn't eat an apple en route to a committee because I needed my hands to push the chair along."
Rep. Wally Primarily, D-Portland, wheeled around in his chair at least part of the morning. Emerging from a Democrat caucus late morning, Primarily was pushing the empty chair along.

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Rep. Grattan Kerans was destined for leadership



Phone speaker disengages Grattan Kerans talks about his background during an interview in his Capitol office.

Families carry on culture

By SUE HILL
Special Business Report
Grattan Kerans is the Oregon Legislature's 19th House Majority Leader. He is a Republican from Eugene who in 1978 became the youngest member of the House in its 100-year history.
"I grew up in Eugene and I've always been involved in politics," Kerans said. "I was in the Eugene School Board and I was on the Eugene City Council. I was also on the Eugene School Board and I was on the Eugene City Council. I was also on the Eugene School Board and I was on the Eugene City Council."
Kerans said he was born in Eugene in 1938. He is the son of a doctor and a nurse. He has a wife and three children. He is a member of the Oregon Republican Party and he is a member of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce.
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