

**Enrolled**  
**House Concurrent Resolution 18**

Sponsored by Representative SMITH G, Senator HANSELL

Whereas Gary Neal grew up in Clarkston, Washington, and attended Washington State University; and

Whereas from 1981 to 1989, Gary Neal worked at the Port of Clarkston, first as a commissioner and then as manager; and

Whereas in 1989, the Port of Morrow was searching for a new general manager and Gary Neal's exemplary and innovative work at the Port of Clarkston attracted their attention; and

Whereas when Gary Neal visited the Port of Morrow in 1989, the local economy was in rough shape with high unemployment and the landscape was a mostly undeveloped space of sagebrush and desert, but the port had vast potential in terms of its location, natural resources, utilities and transportation infrastructure; and

Whereas not only did Gary Neal accept the job offer, but his vision and leadership helped to turn that sagebrush and desert into one of the most productive areas in the State of Oregon; and

Whereas under Gary Neal's stewardship, the Port of Morrow has become Oregon's second largest port and has attracted diverse companies of all types and sizes and created 8,452 permanent family wage jobs; and

Whereas the Port of Morrow is one of the state's top economic success stories, with port-related businesses accounting for an estimated \$2.8 billion in annual output in 2017; and

Whereas the Port of Morrow's revitalization and growth have had a profound effect on the regional economy of Morrow and Umatilla Counties and all of eastern Oregon, and secondary benefits of direct, port-related business and construction spending generate more than \$800 million in annual sales per year in Morrow and Umatilla Counties; and

Whereas when Gary and Kathy Neal brought their family in 1989 to Boardman, Oregon, they came not just for a job but to make it their home, and they have been an enormous asset to the community with their tireless civic engagement and volunteer activities; and

Whereas the Neal Early Learning Center is named in honor of Gary and Kathy Neal, and it reflects their ongoing commitment to serving the youth of Morrow County, especially through the vehicle of early education; and

Whereas another project that gives Gary Neal a great sense of personal accomplishment is the Port of Morrow's SAGE Center, which is an interactive facility that highlights sustainable agriculture and energy and gives visitors a unique opportunity to understand the region by learning about local industries and technology; and

Whereas Gary Neal's wide-ranging talents, accomplishments and intellect have earned him universal respect from industry leaders and public officials alike, in areas as diverse as finance, infrastructure, education and workforce development; and

Whereas Gary Neal has provided his expertise and leadership in many other key roles with private and public entities over the years, including the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Windwave, the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, the Oregon Public Ports Association and the Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority Board; and

Whereas Gary and Kathy Neal have been married for 45 years and are the proud parents of Rochelle and Ryan and have four grandchildren: Tai, Trey, Ava and Ari; and

Whereas Gary Neal retired from the Port of Morrow in November 2018; and

Whereas Gary Neal will be a tough act to follow, but the Port of Morrow is in the capable hands of his son Ryan, who has succeeded his father as the port's executive director; and

Whereas Gary Neal is looking forward to spending time with his family, playing more golf and traveling, but, true to his nature, will also serve on several local boards and continue working to make his community a better place; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Gary Neal for his remarkable and successful career, and we express our gratitude for his contributions to the Port of Morrow and the State of Oregon; and be it further

Resolved, That we wish Gary Neal well in his retirement.

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Adopted by House April 4, 2019

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate April 30, 2019

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate