

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 32

Sponsored by Representatives HOLVEY, KOTEK, Senator PROZANSKI; Representatives LIVELY, NATHANSON, Senators BEYER, COURTNEY

Whereas 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; and

Whereas 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; and

Whereas after high school, Grattan Kerans attended Montgomery College in Maryland and worked in a variety of jobs; and

Whereas in 1963, Grattan Kerans was making salt water taffy on the boardwalk in Ocean City, Maryland, when he met his future wife, Janet Holsclaw, and in 1965 they were married; and

Whereas in 1969, Grattan and Janet Kerans moved to Oregon to attend the University of Oregon; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans majored in political science at the University of Oregon and he served as editor of the campus newspaper, the *Daily Emerald*; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans held several other jobs as a journalist, and he remained an ardent supporter of freedom of the press throughout his career; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans was drawn to public service, and he began working as a staff member on task forces for Oregon's Legislative Assembly; and

Whereas in 1974, Grattan Kerans was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives as a Democrat representing Eugene (then District 39), and he served five terms in the House; and

Whereas in 1977, Grattan Kerans was named Majority Whip, in 1979 and 1981 he was elected Majority Leader and in 1983 he was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans resigned his House seat to run for State Treasurer, but he was defeated in the 1984 general election; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans continued his career of public service by representing the City of Eugene as a lobbyist, serving as an aide to U.S. Representative Jim Weaver, working on various political campaigns and participating in Democratic National Committee activities; and

Whereas in 1986, Grattan Kerans was 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; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans was a commanding committee chairman who was committed to developing sound public policy and protecting the public's right to testify; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans focused on advancing the rights and dignity of workers, whether they were injured, unemployed, whistleblowers, victims of discrimination, seeking to be paid a fair wage or wanting time off work to have a baby or care for an ill family member; and

Whereas many Oregon labor laws passed during Grattan Kerans's tenure became models for legislation in other states and the federal government; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans was dedicated to protecting Oregon's environment by restricting field burning, preserving watersheds, safeguarding drinking water, banning ozone-depleting chemicals and cleaning up Superfund sites; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans worked to expand the rights of utility ratepayers, consumers, homeowners and renters; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans championed voting rights, including same-day voter registration in 1975, ensuring the integrity of the state's elections, advocating for campaign finance reform, protecting ballot access and safeguarding the people's initiative powers; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans was committed to public higher education and dedicated to academic excellence; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans passionately pushed for well-funded social and senior services programs, and he protected Oregon Project Independence, which provides assistance to senior citizens and persons with disabilities so that they can continue living independently in their own homes; and

Whereas 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; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans was a great statesman who respected the legislative process, the press, staff members and those elected to serve; and

Whereas after leaving public office, Grattan Kerans decided to pursue his other passion, higher education, by serving the Oregon State System of Higher Education (now the Oregon University System) as its government relations director from 1993 to 2004; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans passed away on January 16, 2019; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans is survived by his wife, Janet Raye Holsclaw Kerans, son, Tim Kerans, daughter-in-law, Khiota Therrien, granddaughter, Mabel, sister, Mary-Ann Jackson, brother-in-law, Dwight Jackson, and 12 nieces and nephews, and was predeceased by his parents and his sisters, Mary Helen Nolan and Mary Louise Pasutti; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans mentored many who followed him into public service and inspired countless others in the fight for social and economic justice; and

Whereas Grattan Kerans will be remembered for his decades of dedicated public service to the City of Eugene, Lane County and the State of Oregon and for leaving a legacy of laws protecting the people and environment of this state; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, honor the life and accomplishments of Grattan Kerans and express our gratitude for his contributions to the people of this state; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Grattan Kerans as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

Adopted by House April 3, 2019

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate April 30, 2019

Peter Courtney, President of Senate