

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 8

Sponsored by Representative NATHANSON, Senators BEYER, PROZANSKI, Representative HOLVEY; Representatives EVANS, FAHEY, LIVELY, MARSH, NOSSE, SCHOUTEN, SMITH WARNER, WILDE, Senators BOQUIST, GELSER, MANNING JR (Pre-session filed.)

Whereas Mary Katherine “Kappy” Eaton was born on March 9, 1924, in Saint Paul, Minnesota, to John and Mary Girton; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton first became involved in politics at the age of 12, when she handed out posters and buttons for Harold Stassen’s Minnesota gubernatorial campaign; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton attended the University of Minnesota, serving as city editor for the *Minnesota Daily* and graduating with a degree in journalism and political science; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton married Burt Eaton on October 18, 1947, and they were married for 64 years until Burt’s death in 2011; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton worked as a newspaper reporter in California and Minnesota, and she attended the William Mitchell College of Law before she and Burt moved to Eugene, Oregon, in 1951; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton earned master’s degrees in journalism and library science from the University of Oregon (UO), where she became a professor and research librarian; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton’s lifelong passion was serving as a citizen advocate for her community, state and nation; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton served as local and state president of both the League of Women Voters (LWV) and the American Association of University Women (AAUW); and

Whereas Kappy Eaton was a committed voice for democracy, voting rights and campaign finance reform, and she served for many years as board chair of Common Cause Oregon; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton went to Eastern Europe three times on behalf of the United States Department of State, serving as an elections observer and working to educate voters in the region’s emerging democracies; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton was dedicated to improving the lives of women locally and throughout the world, serving as president of the Oregon Women’s Rights Coalition and leading workshops at the United Nations World Conferences on Women in Kenya and China; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton coordinated the AAUW’s national campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment, leading workshops and lobbying efforts in more than 30 states; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton was a fierce advocate for libraries of all types and sizes, from volunteering at Edison Elementary School in Eugene to serving as president of the Oregon Library Association; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton was a legendary presence at the State Capitol, where she was a fixture at every session of the Legislative Assembly for the past half century; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton was widely respected for her legislative experience and knowledge, and rare was the day during a legislative session when she didn’t make the drive from Eugene to Salem to testify, attend work sessions and meet with legislators on behalf of the many causes and organizations she believed in; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton served with distinction on many governmental bodies, including the UO Faculty Senate, the City of Eugene Budget Committee and mental health advisory boards for both Lane County and the State of Oregon; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton loved her Ducks, and she and Burt were passionate fans of UO athletics who attended nearly every home football game and men's and women's basketball game, as well as traveling to many football bowl games over the years; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton was voted both the Eugene Young Woman of the Year and the Eugene Woman of the Year, selected as the Lane County Volunteer of the Year and honored with the UO Distinguished Service Award, the Lane County LWV's Annabel Kitzhaber Education and Advocacy Award and the Governor's Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton was the first Oregonian to receive the Medallion Award from the National Association of Secretaries of State; and

Whereas despite her many awards and honors, Kappy Eaton approached her life's work with humility and grace, and she cared deeply about finding ways to improve the lives of individual people; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton spent tens of thousands of hours over the course of her remarkable life volunteering for the causes dear to her heart; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton made a difference, and in the words of the *Register-Guard*: "Current and future generations have benefited from her work, and would profit from her example"; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton died at home on August 7, 2018; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton is survived by her daughter Marilee, sons John and David, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

Whereas Kappy Eaton will be forever remembered as a dedicated and tireless volunteer and citizen advocate whose career of public service touched countless lives and left an indelible imprint on the University of Oregon, the City of Eugene, Lane County and the State of Oregon; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, honor and celebrate the life of Mary Katherine "Kappy" Eaton, a true champion of democracy, and we express our gratitude for her 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 Kappy Eaton as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

Adopted by House April 25, 2019

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 14, 2019

Peter Courtney, President of Senate