

HR 201 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes and honors the artistic and civic contributions of Michael A. Gibbons.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Michael A. Gibbons' oil paintings of the Oregon coast and surrounding areas established his reputation for depicting the natural world with deep sensitivity and reverence. The late United State Senator Mark Hatfield said of Michael A. Gibbons: "This man has taken a land we all know and love and given it back to us in a form we can understand"

Michael A. Gibbons, a self-described "poet with a paintbrush" was born in Portland, Oregon on December 18, 1943, to Millard and Virginia Gibbons. Michael is proud to be a native-born Oregonian whose family is deeply rooted in the state with his mother's descendants having arrived in Oregon by covered wagon in 1865. Michael A. Gibbons began painting with oils while still in elementary school, and he attended Benson Polytechnic High School in Portland, Oregon. When Michael was just 16 years old, he became the youngest person invited to join the Oregon Society of Artists. In 1988, Michael married the former Judith "Judy" Mortenson, and their partnership has transcended life, love, and art to become a true union of soul and spirit. Michael has four stepchildren, Vicky Ross, Michael Ross, Randy Ross, and Stephen Ross, a sister, Laurie Gibbons, a niece, nephew, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

At the age of 25, Michael A. Gibbons left his job in Portland and relocated to the Oregon Coast to pursue painting full time. The ocean has been a constant source of inspiration for Michael, and his seascapes are among his most vital works. His work has been featured in dozens of exhibitions in the United States and Europe, the most recent being the "Yaquina Exhibition" at the LaSells Stewart Center at Oregon State University in the summer of 2019. Michael A. and Judy Gibbons are longtime residents and civic leaders in Toledo, Oregon, and they have always been intrigued by the town's history and setting amid the naturally beautiful Yaquina River region, seeing Toledo as a place where art can flourish.

With his own hands, Michael A. Gibbons restored the neglected complex of structures on Northeast Alder Street that became the focal point of Toledo's unique artistic community. Michael also saved "The Vicarage," next door to St. John's Episcopal Church, from dereliction in the 1980s, and it became the Gibbon's home and gallery. Two of Michael A. Gibbons' original oil paintings, "Arnold Creek Estuary" and "Don Gray Country," are on display in the Governor's official residence in Salem, Oregon.

House Resolution 201 recognizes and honors the artistic and civic contributions of Michael A. Gibbons, and expresses gratitude for his contributions to the State of Oregon.