

SCR 7 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Honors and celebrates the remarkable life and achievements of former Secretary of State and former state Representative Dennis Michael Richardson and expresses gratitude for his service to this state.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Former Secretary of State Dennis Richardson was a brave and wise statesman who worked tirelessly for the people of Oregon until he died while serving in office on February 26, 2019.

Dennis Richardson was born in Los Angeles, California, on July 30, 1949. Richardson served his country with honor and distinction as a helicopter pilot in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, where he was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry for his heroism in combat. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree and a law degree from Brigham Young University and after law school he established a legal practice in Central Point, Oregon.

In 1984, Richardson was invited to the White House by President Ronald Reagan's administration to participate in a series of briefings for the President and his Cabinet. Richardson was first elected to public office as a member of the Central Point City Council. In 2002, he was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives as a Republican representing the people of the Fourth District. Richardson's tenure in the House of Representatives lasted six terms, and he served with distinction as Speaker Pro Tempore, Minority Whip, and Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. He was unwavering in his fight for fiscally responsible, efficient, and ethical government. Richardson was elected Secretary of State in 2016, becoming the first Republican to hold statewide office in Oregon since 2002, and the first Republican to be elected Secretary of State in Oregon since 1980.

When he passed, he was surrounded by loved ones at his home in Central point. He is survived by his beloved wife, Cathy, nine children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Richardson will forever be remembered for his decades of dedicated public service to the State of Oregon. Every aspect of Richardson's personal and professional life was influenced by his motto, *pro tanto quid retribuamus*, which means "having been given much, what will you give in return?"

Senate Concurrent Resolution 7 honors and celebrates the remarkable life and achievements of Secretary of State and former state Representative Dennis Michael Richardson and expresses gratitude for his service to this state.