

HCR 32 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 6/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Honors the life and accomplishments of former state Representative William Edwin “Bill” Markham, and expresses gratitude for his contributions to the people of this state.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

William Edwin “Bill” Markham was born in Chehalis, Washington, on October 9, 1922. He was a student at Centralia Junior College in Washington when Japanese armed forces attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. Markham joined the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1942 and became a pilot of B-17 Flying Fortresses, and flew 25 bombing missions over Europe, serving his country with courage, honor and distinction. Bill Markham was a proud veteran, but he was very humble about his military service and was reluctant to talk about it unless he was asked.

After returning home, Bill Markham graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in business. He then moved to Oregon and owned and operated a logging and construction business in Douglas County. He helped found Umpqua Community College and served on its board for 24 years. He was a cofounder of three independent banks in southern Oregon: South Umpqua State Bank (now Umpqua Bank), Douglas National Bank, and Pacific Security Bank of Reedsport. He was also instrumental in the origination of Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon.

Bill Markham entered the Oregon House of Representatives in 1969 as a Republican for the 46th District. He served a record 14 terms in the House of Representatives, representing the people of Douglas and Josephine Counties until term limits barred him from running again in 1997. He chaired and served on numerous committees during his three decades in the House of Representatives, and he served with distinction as Speaker Pro Tempore.

Bill Markham was widely respected by his colleagues for his integrity, wisdom, and ability to get along with everyone. He was a voice of civility and moderation in the Legislative Assembly and was renowned for his rare ability to work with members of both parties to improve the lives of Oregonians. He was a tough and committed advocate for his constituents, and his leadership and expertise on natural-resource issues were especially valued by the people of his district.

Bill Markham was a founding member of the Southern Oregon Warbirds, which was initially a group for World War II pilots but later expanded to include veterans of other wars. He never missed a chance to participate in the Douglas County Veterans Day parade and was instrumental in the campaign for improvements at the Roseburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

In 2017, Bill Markham spoke at the dedication of a monument on the grounds of the State Capitol to honor Claire Maybelle Phillips of Portland for her work as an American spy and humanitarian during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines in World War II. Following the dedication, he was surprised to be the guest of honor himself, and he was recognized for his own wartime service and many years of public service in the Legislative Assembly

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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by Governor Kate Brown, former legislative colleagues, and many other current and former state officials.

Bill Markham passed away on April 5, 2021 and will forever be remembered as a courageous veteran, a true gentleman, a great statesman, and a selfless and dedicated public servant. House Concurrent Resolution 32 honors the life and accomplishments of former state Representative William Edwin "Bill" Markham, and expresses gratitude for his contributions to the people of this state.