

House Concurrent Resolution 32

Sponsored by Representative LEIF

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

In memoriam: Former state Representative William Edwin "Bill" Markham, 1922-2021.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas William Edwin "Bill" Markham was born in Chehalis, Washington, on October 9, 1922;
3 and

4 Whereas Bill Markham was a student at Centralia Junior College in Washington when Japanese
5 armed forces attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor; and

6 Whereas Bill Markham joined the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1942 and became a pilot of B-17
7 Flying Fortresses; and

8 Whereas Bill Markham flew 25 bombing missions over Europe, serving his country with courage,
9 honor and distinction; and

10 Whereas after returning home, Bill Markham graduated from the University of Washington with
11 a degree in business; and

12 Whereas Bill Markham moved to Oregon and owned and operated a logging and construction
13 business in Douglas County; and

14 Whereas Bill Markham helped found Umpqua Community College and served on its board for
15 24 years; and

16 Whereas Bill Markham was a cofounder of three independent banks in southern Oregon: South
17 Umpqua State Bank (now Umpqua Bank), Douglas National Bank and Pacific Security Bank of
18 Reedsport; and

19 Whereas Bill Markham was instrumental in the origination of Wildlife Safari in Winston,
20 Oregon; and

21 Whereas Bill Markham entered the Oregon House of Representatives in 1969 as a Republican
22 for the 46th District; and

23 Whereas Bill Markham served a record 14 terms in the House of Representatives, representing
24 the people of Douglas and Josephine Counties until term limits barred him from running again in
25 1997; and

26 Whereas Bill Markham chaired and served on numerous committees during his three decades in
27 the House of Representatives, and he served with distinction as Speaker Pro Tempore; and

28 Whereas Bill Markham was widely respected by his colleagues for his integrity, wisdom and
29 ability to get along with everyone; and

30 Whereas Bill Markham was a voice of civility and moderation in the Legislative Assembly, and
31 he was renowned for his rare ability to work with members of both parties to improve the lives of
32 Oregonians; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas Bill Markham was a tough and committed advocate for his constituents, and his lead-
2 ership and expertise on natural-resource issues were especially valued by the people of his district;
3 and

4 Whereas Bill Markham was a founding member of the Southern Oregon Warbirds, which was
5 initially a group for World War II pilots but later expanded to include veterans of other wars; and

6 Whereas Bill Markham never missed a chance to participate in the Douglas County Veterans
7 Day parade; and

8 Whereas Bill Markham was instrumental in the campaign for improvements at the Roseburg
9 Veterans Affairs Medical Center; and

10 Whereas in 2017, Bill Markham spoke at the dedication of a monument on the grounds of the
11 State Capitol to honor Claire Maybelle Phillips of Portland for her work as an American spy and
12 humanitarian during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines in World War II; and

13 Whereas following the dedication, Bill Markham was surprised to be the guest of honor himself,
14 and he was recognized for his own wartime service and many years of public service in the Legis-
15 lative Assembly by Governor Kate Brown, former legislative colleagues and many other current and
16 former state officials; and

17 Whereas Bill Markham was a proud veteran, but he was very humble about his military service
18 and was reluctant to talk about it unless he was asked; and

19 Whereas Bill Markham passed away on April 5, 2021; and

20 Whereas Bill Markham will forever be remembered as a courageous veteran, a true gentleman,
21 a great statesman and a selfless and dedicated public servant; now, therefore,

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

23 That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, honor the life and accomplish-
24 ments of former state Representative William Edwin “Bill” Markham, and we express our gratitude
25 for his contributions to the people of this state; and be it further

26 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Bill Markham as an
27 expression of our sympathy and condolences.

28