

## Enrolled

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 20

Sponsored by Senator GELSER

Whereas Edward Reginald “Ed” Epley began his great life adventure on April 7, 1937; and  
Whereas Ed Epley lived a life of advocacy to end war, gave those in need a hand up, fought for basic human rights and encouraged everyone to leave the world a better place; and  
Whereas Ed Epley was arrested for protesting the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant in 1977; and  
Whereas Ed Epley supported and volunteered at homeless shelters in his community; and  
Whereas Ed Epley worked tirelessly to provide apartments for unhoused persons; and  
Whereas Ed Epley was a founding member of the Peace and Justice Gofers, which provides nonprofit organizations with logistical assistance; and  
Whereas Ed Epley was a founding member of Power of 100 People Who Care; and  
Whereas Ed Epley was a member of Veterans for Peace; and  
Whereas Ed Epley began volunteering for the American Red Cross as a blood donor while he was a 17-year-old student at Oregon State College; and  
Whereas Ed Epley eventually donated more than 80 gallons of his blood to the Red Cross; and  
Whereas Ed Epley regularly drove blood and plasma from Corvallis, Oregon, to Portland, Oregon, for the Red Cross; and  
Whereas in June 2020, Ed Epley received a pin celebrating 50 years of volunteer service with the Red Cross; and  
Whereas Ed Epley contributed his money and volunteered countless hours of his time to programs supporting unhoused persons in Corvallis; and  
Whereas Ed Epley used his own financing, property and creativity to establish Partner’s Place in Corvallis to provide permanent, supportive housing for chronically unhoused persons; and  
Whereas Ed Epley regularly visited the Grace Center for Adult Day Services in Corvallis and often brought pizza donated by local restaurants; and  
Whereas in September 2001, to protest the imminent United States invasion of Afghanistan, Ed Epley started a daily peace vigil in front of the Benton County Courthouse; and  
Whereas Ed Epley drove his 1961 Volkswagen van covered with anti-war signs to the daily vigil, which made both him and his van symbols for peace to all who drove by; and  
Whereas Ed Epley’s consistent and persistent vigil reminded the community of their country’s ongoing involvement in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and  
Whereas Ed Epley was able to recruit other anti-war activists with his visible presence at the courthouse; and  
Whereas the courthouse vigil has continued every day for nearly 20 years, despite storms, wildfires and a global pandemic; and  
Whereas a generation of Benton County children grew up seeing signs of peace each evening they passed by the courthouse; and  
Whereas Ed Epley continued to stand in front of the courthouse nearly every evening until he was hospitalized for treatment of pancreatic cancer in late 2020; and  
Whereas the vigil Ed Epley began continues even after his death on January 26, 2021; and  
Whereas Ed Epley used his life to demonstrate the power of an individual to take action for peace through everyday actions to provide assistance, compassion, respect and even blood to others; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, designate April 7, 2022, as Action for Peace Day to commemorate Edward Reginald “Ed” Epley’s legacy of mercy, peacemaking, generosity and action to end war; and be it further

Resolved, That we offer our deepest condolences to Ed Epley’s family members and friends and all who were inspired by his work, his lifetime of contributions to the cause of peace and his unique sense of humor.

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Adopted by Senate April 28, 2021

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House June 10, 2021

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House