

Senate Concurrent Resolution 20

Sponsored by Senator GELSER

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**.

Designates April 7, 2022, as Action for Peace Day to honor memory of Edward Reginald "Ed" Epley (1937-2021).

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

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

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 courthouse; and

2 Whereas the courthouse vigil has continued every day for nearly 20 years, despite storms,
3 wildfires and a global pandemic; and

4 Whereas a generation of Benton County children grew up seeing signs of peace each evening
5 they passed by the courthouse; and

6 Whereas Ed Epley continued to stand in front of the courthouse nearly every evening until he
7 was hospitalized for treatment of pancreatic cancer in late 2020; and

8 Whereas the vigil Ed Epley began continues even after his death on January 26, 2021; and

9 Whereas Ed Epley used his life to demonstrate the power of an individual to take action for
10 peace through everyday actions to provide assistance, compassion, respect and even blood to others;
11 now, therefore,

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

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

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

19
