

Dr. Scott Smith  
Hermiston, Oregon

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee On Rules

2021 Regular Session HCR 13 In Memoriam: George Ira Fenton Jr.

Mr. Fenton hired me in the fall of 1979 to teach Sixth Grade at the Umatilla Middle School in Umatilla, Oregon. He not only had a big impact on my professional career but became a good friend.

After Mr. Fenton offered me a teaching job he took me around to show me the community and locate a place to live. Labor Day 1981 a friend and I were flying from Hermiston, Oregon to McCall, Idaho. Just over Medical Springs out of LaGrande we had engine failure and made an emergency landing. The pilot of the plane also worked for the district. Everyone survived but we were bang up. The first day of school was that coming Tuesday, I was still in the hospital and Mr. Fenton made sure everything was taken care of the the first day of school in my classroom, then came to the hospital, we met with the doctors and he took me home. That is above and beyond his responsibilities. He wasn't my boss, he was a teacher and friend.

I also found myself sitting on the other side of the negotiations table from him when I was President of our local association. When it was all said and done he came to my classroom and said, "Scott, I know you were representing the association and I was for the board, that doesn't impact our professional friendship or our personal one." A true gentleman.

I knew that if I ever needed anything, professional or personal Mr. Fenton was there to support me. What a tribute to Mr. Fenton HCR 13 is.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Dr. Scott Smith