

Senate Committee on Rules
Senator Rob Wagner, Chair, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair, Senate Republican Leader

April 15, 2021

SCR 10
In memoriam: Senator Jackie Winter

Senator Winters took me on as a young college student and over my four years of working for her, she became one of my greatest mentors, teachers, and role models. I began working for Jackie at a pivotal point in my life. As a young person looking to engage in political discourse, she taught me about the value of bipartisanship and what it means to stand for your ideals with respect and compassion for those who you do not always agree with.

Throughout Senator Winters long career in public service, she never failed to stand as a pillar of morality and institutional knowledge. She constantly fought for what was right and fair and inspired others to stand up with her. I feel immensely lucky to have had my first job in politics be so deeply shaped by someone with unfailing morals. She reminds us of what politics should be.

Senator Winters was the epitome of what it means to be a public servant. She had a deep love for Oregon and dedicated her life to truly helping people and making meaningful change. She inspired respectful debate and brought people together on issues who could normally never agree.

I will always cherish our walks through the cherry blossom trees between committees, talking campaign strategy on her living room floor and debriefing on bills on the car ride home after long days on the Senate floor. It was in those moments I learned about true leadership, how to make good policy, and how to treat everyone around you with compassion.

I will miss the times she dropped everything to meet with school children who would stop by the Capitol, how her eyes lit up at a wicked joke, and how you would have to pull her away from her desk at the end of the day and remind her to go home.

For those who knew Jackie, the Oregon State Capitol has not felt the same since her passing. For those who did not have the privilege of knowing her personally, Oregon has forever been shaped by her work. Jackie's Oregon was a hopeful one, one with a bright future, a place to call home. I miss Senator Winters immensely, but when the issue feels too big to tackle, either in my personal or professional life, I often ask myself, "What would Jackie do?"

Sincerely,

Mia Noren