Whereas Donald C. “Don” Carey was born on February 17, 1925, in Gates, Oregon, to Al and Velma Carey; and
Whereas in 1943, Don Carey graduated from Gates High School, where he excelled in sports and served as student body president; and
Whereas Don Carey served his country with honor and distinction during World War II in the United States Army Air Forces; and
Whereas Don Carey graduated from Oregon State College in 1950 and began a lifelong career in education; and
Whereas Don Carey married Helen Wilson in 1950, and together they raised three sons; and
Whereas Don Carey had an exemplary career as a teacher, counselor and coach in Stayton, Oregon; and
Whereas Don Carey was one of the most successful high school basketball coaches in Oregon history, leading his teams at Stayton High School to an overall record of 486-166 and winning two state championships, finishing as state runner-up three times and winning 14 Capital Conference championships; and
Whereas Don Carey was a gentleman on and off the basketball court, and he was renowned for his composure and civility on the sidelines, earning just two technical fouls in his coaching career; and
Whereas the basketball court at Stayton High School was named Don Carey Court in 2003; and
Whereas Don Carey also coached golf at Stayton High School, and his teams won nine state championships, finished as state runner-up three times and won 20 Capital Conference championships; and
Whereas Don Carey earned state coach of the year honors for basketball three times and golf four times, and in 1993 he was named the national golf coach of the year; and
Whereas all three of Don and Helen Carey’s sons–Jon, Tom and Steve–played basketball and golf on their father’s teams at Stayton High School; and
Whereas Don Carey taught a variety of high school classes, but his favorite was one he developed and named “Conservation,” which included virtually anything related to the outdoors, and the course was so popular with students that enrollment had to be restricted; and
Whereas Don Carey always had a soft spot for students whose behavior or background put them at risk academically or socially, and as an educator and coach he strove to provide these students with a sense of belonging and accomplishment, which brought about dramatic and positive changes in the lives of many students; and
Whereas Don Carey had an open-door policy at lunchtime, and his office became an informal meeting place for students to eat and have discussions in a nonthreatening environment; and
Whereas Don Carey maintained lifelong relationships with many of the students he taught, coached and mentored; and
Whereas one of Don Carey’s passions was playing fastpitch softball, and he played on many successful amateur adult teams, winning a state championship and being named to the all-state team three times at three different positions (pitcher, catcher and first base); and
Whereas Don Carey was an avid and lifelong sportsman, and he is forever connected to the many family members and friends who were his hunting and fishing partners in his favorite places in Oregon and the western United States; and
Whereas Don Carey later in his life continued to pursue wildlife but with a camera, and he revealed a true talent for photography, capturing the beauty of wildlife and its natural surroundings; and
Whereas Don Carey was named Stayton First Citizen in 1977; and
Whereas Don Carey passed away on March 9, 2019; and
Whereas Don Carey was preceded in death by his parents and four brothers; and
Whereas Don Carey was survived by his wife of 69 years, Helen, their three sons and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and
Whereas Don Carey will be forever remembered as a dedicated educator and coach who touched countless lives and made his community a better place; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, celebrate the life and accomplishments of Donald C. “Don” Carey, and we recognize and honor his contributions to the people of this state; and be it further
Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Don Carey as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

Adopted by Senate March 28, 2023

Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House April 14, 2023

Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House