

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 6

Sponsored by Senator SOLLMAN, Representative MCLAIN (Presession filed.)

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown was born in Spokane, Washington, on July 3, 1944, during World War II; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown's mother, Lillian "Tinka" Weivoda Barber worked in the war industry, and his father, Leonard Davis, served in the United States Army; and

Whereas when he was six months old, Ralph Davis Brown was adopted by his babysitter, Violet Newman Brown, and her husband, Harold "Brownie" Brown; and

Whereas when Ralph Davis Brown was seven years old, Harold Brown died on the job in a train accident near Lewiston, Idaho, and subsequently Ralph Davis Brown and Violet Brown moved to her hometown of Astoria, Oregon; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown had a happy childhood spent with his many friends, and he participated in the Boy Scouts of America, the YMCA, swimming, sports, clam digging, camping and many other activities; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown attended Captain Robert Gray Elementary School in Astoria, where he met his future wife, Carol Osterlund, and they remained close to many of their friends from those years, including the Fellas Club; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown attended Astoria High School, where he participated on the football, baseball and wrestling teams; and

Whereas after graduating from high school in 1962, Ralph Davis Brown joined the United States Army National Guard and spent a year in training, followed by a four-year part-time stint; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown was on National Guard duty during riots in Seaside, Oregon, and he also helped to evacuate a nursing home during a flood alert; and

Whereas during his high school and college years, Ralph Davis Brown worked for the Columbia River Packers Association (which later became Bumble Bee Seafoods); and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown married Carol Osterlund, his longtime girlfriend, in September 1963 and their daughter, Laurie, was born in 1964; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown received his associate degree from Clatsop Community College in 1965 and his bachelor's degree from Oregon College of Education in 1967; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown began his teaching career at Fort Stevens Junior High School in the Warrenton-Hammond School District, where he also coached football and basketball; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown's first students were very special to him, and he remained in contact with some of them for the rest of his life; and

Whereas after his son, Daryle, was born in 1970, Ralph Davis Brown began teaching in the Hillsboro School District, where he would spend the rest of his career at the middle school level as a teacher, guidance counselor and administrator; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown continued his education at Portland State University and Oregon State University, earning his counseling and administrative degrees; and

Whereas in addition to teaching, Ralph Davis Brown coached various sports teams and assisted with track meets and other extracurricular activities; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown served as a mayor and city council member for the City of Cornelius, Oregon, and he was a parks and recreation commissioner for the City of Forest Grove, Oregon; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown was an active member of the Forest Grove United Church of Christ, where he served in various leadership positions and helped start their homelessness assistance program; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown served on the boards of the Cornelius Booster Club, Cornelius Kids, Inc., Tuality Community Hospital, Washington County Community Action, Forest Grove High School Hall of Fame and Forest Grove Senior and Community Center; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown was a longtime member and president of the Oregon Road Runners Club (ORRC), and he was director of hundreds of runs for ORRC and other local organizations in Washington County and northwest Oregon; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown was appointed as a state Representative for Oregon House District 29 in 2002, serving the remainder of a term until the next election; and

Whereas in 2007, Ralph Davis Brown won election to the school board of the Forest Grove School District; and

Whereas in retirement, Carol and Ralph Davis Brown were able to travel and spend time with their beloved children and grandchildren; and

Whereas aided by his daughter, Laurie, Ralph Davis Brown was fortunate to reconnect with his birth family in Montana, California and Arizona, including his mother, Lillian, his brothers, Art and Dale, and his sisters, Jacquie, Revan, Judie, Geri and Teri; and

Whereas as a result of finding his birth family, Ralph Davis Brown became an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation in Montana; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown was found deceased on May 13, 2022, nearly a year after he went missing from his home in Cornelius; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carol, his children, Laurie and Daryle, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews and countless friends, coworkers and fellow runners and walkers who were a large part of his life; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown's family is grateful to the volunteer divers of Adventures With Purpose who found Ralph and brought closure to the family, as well as public safety personnel from Washington County, Yamhill County, the City of Cornelius and many other cities and the hundreds of volunteers who helped search for Ralph; and

Whereas due to the circumstances surrounding Ralph Davis Brown's tragic disappearance and death, Oregon's Missing and Endangered Person Alert system has now been updated to include a process for coordinated agency response when an endangered person goes missing; and

Whereas Ralph Davis Brown was a teacher and community leader of great distinction, and he was renowned for his love of family and friends, his lifelong passion for his students and his decades of dedicated public service; 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 Ralph Davis Brown, 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 Ralph Davis Brown as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

Adopted by Senate February 14, 2023

Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House March 7, 2023

Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House