

SCR 210 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Honors and celebrates the remarkable life and career of Mike Donahue and expresses gratitude for his service to the people of Oregon.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: Ayes, 30

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Mike Donahue was born in 1946 in Albany, Oregon, and attended Albany Union High School, where he was elected student body president. He graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in journalism and took a job as a reporter for KOIN-TV in Portland at the age of 22; however, he soon thereafter enlisted in the United States Army.

While in the Army, Mike Donahue honed his skills as a writer and reporter by serving in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He returned to KOIN-TV in 1972, where his talent and news writing skills soon found him elevated to the position of lead news anchor. He was an inspiration to his fellow Portland news colleagues, including current and former Oregon State Senators Lew Frederick, Mark Hass, and Rick Metsger. When Mike Donahue was asked if he ever considered running for office, he replied, "I would rather report the news than be the news."

For over 40 years, Mike Donahue covered thousands of stories, including the founding of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the eruption of Mount St. Helens, the Rajneeshee movement in Wasco County and takeover of the Wasco County town of Antelope, seven presidential elections, and countless other events of significant contemporary and historical significance. His passion, dedication, and attention to detail earned him the nickname of "the Walter Cronkite of Oregon."

Mike Donahue was the longest serving journalist in the history of Portland television news. He retired in 2012 and dedicated himself to his family, his church, and his community. He loved Oregon, his television viewers, his rose garden, and the New York Yankees. He lived by the motto that, in reporting the news, he would rather be right than be first.

Mike Donahue lost his beloved wife, Susan, a few months before his own passing, which was on August 25, 2023, after a courageous bout with cancer. They raised two daughters, Joy and Noelle, in their Portland area home.