

February 22, 2024

SCR 206

Recognition of former Senator Fred W. Heard

Heard Family Comments

By Frederick Heard

Chair Lieber, members of the committee, good afternoon, for the record, I am Frederick Heard.

First of all Chair Senator Lieber, one of the hats our dad wore was that of Majority Leader, we all have very good memories in S223. Vice Chair Senator Knopp, District 27 has a special spot in the Heard family heart, that was our dad's district when it included Klamath and Deschutes counties. Senator Hansell the Heard family had deep roots in the Fossil and Waterman Flat areas of Wheeler County where our Great-Grandfather was a circuit rider. And exciting things are happening in Umatilla with the Rees Training Center, thank you for your support of the

National Guard. Senator Manning, thank you for your 24 years of dedicated selfless military service in the United States Army, thank you, thank you.

I am here today with my sisters Robin Buckingham and Heather Nelson; former Teacher, Representative, Senator, and Episcopal priest Fred W. Heard was our dad. On behalf of our mom Adair Heard; our spouses Theresa, Casey, and Barry; the nine grandchildren (Christopher, Matthew, Carter, Jackson, Sawyer, Harrison, Edith, Angela, and Jesse); our extended family, and anyone who knew Fred, Thank you.

Thank you for recognizing the nearly sixty years of service that directly impacted thousands if not hundreds of thousands of former students, constituents, Kiwanians,

fellow AA members, parishioners, friends, and family.

Additionally, there are certainly millions of Oregonians who unknowingly benefited directly from his legislative and Department of Commerce initiatives.

My sisters and I spent our formidable years growing up in this building; I remember our mom, my sisters, and I walking through these “new” hearing rooms, looking at the new display cases, and her explaining that the water tasted funny in the new fountains because of the new copper. Every year and a half we would pack up our Klamath Falls lives and trek to Salem where a new temporary home and school would be waiting. Walking into a new class was never fun but we were not in it alone. Once we were “back in session” we were reconnected with our extended staff family of additional “aunts and

uncles,” two of which are here today in Scott Riordan and Bob Olsen. As well as the unflappable, ever watchful, and dedicated duo of Gary Esgate and Betty Crank. Then we had the other “capital latchkey club kids” from the Barrow, Deardorff, Hannon, Isham, and Powell families. We were kids in an enormous historical marble building that was ours to explore; I figured out after the “new” coke dispensers were installed in the copy rooms that since it was 20 cents per cup, most people used a quarter and forgot to get their nickel change, so I would walk around the copy rooms and fund my cokes. Whereas Heather and Robin figured out that they could scotch tape the elevator buttons and create elevator havoc to those riding behind them. We would explore, we learned the state tree, fish, flower, and bird from taking the tunnel to McDonalds. We would always stare in equal awe and

disgust at the Oregon Seal that was made up of items found in the sewer. We figured out which office had the best candy stashes or when to find the cookies or pizza left in conference rooms. We also figured out that Lloyd would have cokes, peanuts, and possible other treats when we ventured up to the Senate Lounge. I remember our Mom, Adair taking us on numerous occasions to see Nurse Maxine for advice on childhood bumps, bruises, or illnesses. We also learned thanks to Cecil Edwards that politics is like sausage, nobody likes the process, but they love the end result.

Most importantly we also learned Respect; respect for the institution and respect for different people, voices, and opinions. And at very young ages whether it be walking in parades, helping campaign door to door, or attending the

crack of dawn “Buckaroo Breakfast” at the Deschutes County Fair, we learned decorum; we in ourselves were not just kids but representatives of the Heard family who either represented legislative districts upward, or the State of Oregon downward. It was this lesson looking back and Mom’s probable disapproval that prevented me from taking advantage of the smooth marble floors with my skateboard.

Although this was our Dad’s call to service, we were included and always along for the ride; we moved and marched as a family. We had many family meals in Chemult or Oakridge, Mom and Dad turned campaign and constituent events into family trips. As a young witness, the Heard team and its surrogates were always working hard and having a good time doing it. This positivity and

collaborative spirit transcended all partnerships and relationships whether it be internal, intra-party, across party lines, with the lobby, or at the grass roots level.

Reflecting on his almost six decades of service to others; the primary lesson we learned growing up was that of service before self. This principal is evident in our chosen career paths: Heather who started as a cardiac research coordinator, serving and supporting patients and families trying to make it to their next chapter; is now a middle school counselor, serving students and families as they write their stories. Robin who started working as a school district procurement specialist, has worked her way through the classroom, into faculty development; and is now growing tomorrow's leaders as a middle school principal. And my 33 years and counting in the United

States Army and National Guard. Through these roles and our impact therein, we have extended the Reverend Fred W. Heard's impacts and lessons outward exponentially.

We unknowingly saw firsthand and have intuitively practiced along our own paths that to be an effective servant leader you must listen to all viewpoints, not just your own; you must collaborate with all sides, realizing your ideas alone may not be best or produce the greatest results; and you must have the moral courage to accept and promote ideas that you don't agree with yet benefit the people, or promote unpopular ideas for hope of the better good. Former Senator and Representative Fred W. Heard was a democrat who represented primarily republican constituencies for more than a decade to then



be appointed to Governor Atiyeh's cabinet as the Director of the Department of Commerce. This bipartisan selection would ultimately be to the detriment of his future political and state government career. However, it was where he was needed to better serve the citizens of the entire State of Oregon. The eventual forced departure, though discouraging at the moment, opened up pathways that would eventually lead to seminary and ultimately the priesthood within the Episcopal Church. Again, Service before Self, that is how the Heard family has served and will continue to serve; doing what is best for the people, organizations, and the entire State of Oregon not only following but strengthening the legacy of our dad, Fred W. Heard.

Thank you, the Heard Family.