

Submitter: Carla KC Hanson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SCR203

It was my good fortune to attend the Senate Rules Committee Session on February 22, 2024 in order to offer testimony on another matter. I was unaware that SCR 203, honoring the wonderful Alice Bartelt, was on the docket. The moving testimony on her behalf was fitting for such a life well-lived and reminded me of how much she is missed - and how much I miss her. At her Celebration of Life in Oct. 2023, I had the privilege and honor to meet her family and say a few words in memory of Alice. It seems fitting to share them here:

"I know Alice through the world of politics, and indeed she was a bright light within the bitter cacophony of rhetoric and one-upmanship.

"We'd first met when I was a fledgling Democratic party chair in Multnomah County a decade and ½ ago, but it was over the last 5 years - most of which while I served as Democratic Party of Oregon Chair - that I really began to understand her under-sung dedication and resolve to do good and to do it right. Despite intra-party acrimony and arguments, every step of the way Alice understood that attentively doing things by the book was always the best solution. Without fear nor favor, she delved deeply into confusing aspects of our Party's rules and issued her parliamentary opinions in meticulous detail.

"... And in a few cases so much detail, that I would have to have her interpret her interpretation... and bless her, she was so patient with me.

"Alice was indeed the epitome of the unsung hero, quietly and studiously doing her work for hours on end to make sure our Party (and every other organization with whom she worked and volunteered) was on the right track, doing right so we could do good.

"There should be statues dedicated to folks like Alice, because it's their - it's her - commitment to fairness and justice in the microcosm that makes it possible in the real world. Major and minor political faces like mine, who get their 15 minutes of fame, are a dime a dozen. The real heart and soul of making this world a better place are the quiet, gracious, principled people like Alice Bartelt.

"For years we would say 'Go ask Alice,' and so sadly we cannot do that anymore. But every time you think of Alice, every time you lament that she is not around to share her thoughts, please think of Alice as now quietly yet emphatically offering the angels her considered opinion on Heaven's Bylaws

"Because you know for sure she has a seat at the head table."