



1       Whereas in 1990, Ralph Groener began a 30-year career as a political coordinator and lobbyist  
2 for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); and

3       Whereas Ralph Groener and his long-time colleague Mary Botkin were twice voted as the most  
4 effective lobby team by the Capitol Club of Oregon; and

5       Whereas for three decades, Ralph Groener was a beloved figure at the State Capitol and within  
6 AFSCME, known for his warmth and talkativeness; and

7       Whereas Ralph Groener was widely respected for his sharp political mind and strategic acumen,  
8 but he was also legendary for his huge laugh and incredible sense of humor; and

9       Whereas Ralph Groener retired from AFSCME in 2018, but he continued his passionate advoca-  
10 cacy for the causes he believed in; and

11       Whereas three times in his life Ralph Groener acted with great courage and decisiveness at  
12 crime scenes to foil perpetrators and save victims, each time earning the Oregon State Sheriffs'  
13 Association Award for Valor; and

14       Whereas Ralph Groener's remarkable career was marked by dozens of other awards and honors;  
15 and

16       Whereas Ralph Groener passed away on June 1, 2022; and

17       Whereas Ralph Groener was survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Sharon; his daughter,  
18 Hilary; his son, Chris; his granddaughter, Cassidy Hedger; his great-grandsons, Colton Lee Hedger  
19 and Cayden Theodore Hedger; and many other family members, friends and colleagues who miss him  
20 dearly; and

21       Whereas Ralph Groener will be forever remembered for his lifetime of dedicated public service  
22 and for the profound and lasting impact he had on the people of the State of Oregon; now, therefore,

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

24       That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, celebrate the life and accom-  
25 plishments of Theodore Ralph Groener, and we recognize and honor his contributions to the people  
26 of this state; and be it further

27       Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Ralph Groener as  
28 an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

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