

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 29

Sponsored by Senator GOLDEN, Representatives MARSH, MCINTIRE; Representatives RESCHKE, WALLAN

Whereas William D. “Bill” Thorndike, Jr., was a lifelong champion of Southern Oregon, a dedicated civic leader and a visionary business and education advocate; and

Whereas Bill Thorndike was born on December 15, 1953, as a third-generation resident of Rogue Valley, and throughout his lifetime, he exemplified the highest standards of integrity, leadership and service to his community and the people of the State of Oregon; and

Whereas Bill Thorndike was a steadfast advocate for higher education, serving as the inaugural chair of the Southern Oregon University (SOU) Board of Trustees, guiding the institution with wisdom and vision through multiple terms and earning the distinguished SOU President’s Medal for his outstanding service; and

Whereas Bill Thorndike’s leadership extended to business and industry as the longtime president and chairman of Medford Fabrication, where he played a pivotal role in strengthening Oregon’s economy through innovation and international trade, earning recognition as the United States Small Business Administration’s Exporter of the Year in 1990; and

Whereas Bill Thorndike demonstrated a profound commitment to civic engagement, serving on nearly 60 boards and committees at the local, state and national levels, including leadership roles with the Chamber of Medford & Jackson County, the Oregon Business Council, the Oregon Community Foundation, the Crater Lake National Park Trust, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Portland Branch and many more; and

Whereas Bill Thorndike was honored with numerous accolades throughout his lifetime, including the Glenn L. Jackson Leadership Award, the Tom McCall Leadership Award, the JCCSC Person of the Decade Award, the Chamber of Medford & Jackson County First Citizen Award and the Resolve Imagine Award, reflecting his unwavering commitment to Oregon’s prosperity, sustainability and civic well-being; and

Whereas Bill Thorndike was a devoted philanthropist, playing a key role in securing funding for vital community projects such as the United Way of Jackson County’s permanent headquarters, where the auditorium now bears his name; and

Whereas Bill Thorndike passed away at his family cabin on February 14, 2025, after a Valentine’s Day spent with his beloved wife, Angela Littlefield Thorndike; and

Whereas Bill Thorndike is survived by his wife, Angela, his brothers Dan and David, his nieces and nephews Camila, Isabella, Trevor, Anna and Thomas, his many cousins and his beloved dogs and horses; and

Whereas Bill Thorndike left an indelible mark on Oregon, uplifting countless individuals and communities and shaping the future of this state through his leadership in education, business, public service and philanthropy, and his remarkable impact will be felt for generations to come; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor William D. “Bill” Thorndike, Jr., for his exemplary life of service to the people of the State of Oregon, and we express our deepest gratitude for his immeasurable contributions to this state; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Bill Thorndike as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

Adopted by Senate May 7, 2025

Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House June 5, 2025

Julie Fahey, Speaker of House