

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 206

Sponsored by Senators WAGNER, FREDERICK, MANNING JR, ANDERSON, BROADMAN, CAMPOS, GELSER BLOUIN, GORSEK, JAMA, LIEBER, MEEK, NERON MISSLIN, PATTERSON, PROZANSKI, SMITH DB, SOLLMAN, TAYLOR, Representatives NELSON, NGUYEN D, RIEKE SMITH; Senators DRAZAN, GIROD, GOLDEN, HAYDEN, LINTHICUM, MCLANE, NASH, PHAM K, REYNOLDS, ROBINSON, STARR, THATCHER, WEBER, Representatives ANDERSEN, EVANS, GAMBA, ISADORE, LEWIS, WATANABE (Pre-session filed.)

Whereas state Senator Aaron Lionel Woods was born in the Woodlawn neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois, on August 19, 1949, to Elizabeth and John Woods; and

Whereas Aaron Woods was the third of five children, and he attended McCosh Elementary School and graduated from Lindblom Technical High School; and

Whereas Aaron Woods had aspirations of becoming a dentist, but he instead enlisted in the United States Army in 1968; and

Whereas Aaron Woods proudly served his country with honor and distinction for six years as part of the U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command; and

Whereas overseas postings in Germany and Southeast Asia allowed Aaron Woods to travel and see the world during his military career; and

Whereas following his military service, Aaron Woods built a distinguished career in technology, eventually settling in Oregon, where he spent many years as a senior executive at Xerox Corporation and Tektronix; and

Whereas Aaron Woods' volunteer efforts included serving on boards such as Digitunity, an organization dedicated to ensuring equitable access to technology for underserved communities, and the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA), which works to advance the tech industry's standards and education; and

Whereas through his volunteer service, Aaron Woods worked tirelessly to bridge the digital divide and expand career and technical education programs to meet industry demands and support community growth; and

Whereas Aaron Woods earned an Associate of Applied Science degree from South Suburban College and both a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Business Administration degree from Marylhurst University; and

Whereas Aaron Woods' outstanding contributions were recognized through numerous prestigious awards, including induction into the CompTIA IT Industry Hall of Fame, acknowledging his significant impact on the technology industry, and the Tech America Champion Award, highlighting his advocacy for innovation and his community leadership; and

Whereas after retiring, Aaron Woods' dedication to his community only grew stronger, and he served in several important roles, including on the Wilsonville Development Review Board (2013-2018), the Wilsonville Planning Commission (2020-2022) and the Clackamas Community College Board of Directors (2019-2025); and

Whereas Aaron Woods' commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was evident in his active leadership with the Wilsonville Alliance for Inclusive Community and the Wilsonville DEI Exploratory Group; and

Whereas in 2022, Aaron Woods was elected to the Oregon Senate as a Democrat representing the people of District 13; and

Whereas Aaron Woods was renowned in the Senate for his sense of humor and his irrepressible optimism, but he was also widely respected for his keen political instincts, pragmatic leadership and creative problem solving; and

Whereas Aaron Woods considered himself a centrist—a legislator who held moderate views and often sought the middle ground in policy deliberations, working tirelessly to bridge political divides; and

Whereas Aaron Woods was a quiet and humble statesman who didn't require big speeches or big headlines to affect policy and people; and

Whereas Aaron Woods was deeply committed to serving all Oregonians, and he passionately championed critical issues of vital importance to the people of this state; and

Whereas Aaron Woods' legacy extends into the many policy areas he helped shape with his vision and advocacy, which include expanding affordable housing, increasing broadband access, enhancing cybersecurity protections and addressing the thoughtful integration and ethical implications of artificial intelligence; and

Whereas Aaron Woods was dedicated to strengthening STEM education, recognizing its crucial role in preparing future generations for success in a rapidly evolving technological landscape; and

Whereas Aaron Woods passed away peacefully in his sleep on April 19, 2025; and

Whereas Aaron Woods lost his courageous battle with cancer, but he lived his life with passion and purpose, and he left it with great dignity; and

Whereas Aaron Woods was predeceased by his parents; his older brothers, Warren and George; and his beloved wife of 43 years, Shirley; and

Whereas Aaron Woods was survived by his five children, Patrice, Aaron Jr., John, Kimone (Fidel) and Kara (David); seven grandchildren, Broderick, Ashia, Christian, J'den, Nala, Olivia and Ava; sister, Angela; brother, Alonzo; and uncle, John Strickland (Joan); and

Whereas Aaron Woods died while serving in office as state Senator, working tirelessly for the people of this state; and

Whereas Aaron Woods was a dedicated public servant and a visionary leader whose life's mission was to bring technology and opportunity within reach for everyone; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, honor and celebrate the remarkable life and achievements of state Senator Aaron Lionel Woods, and we express our sincere and abiding gratitude for his service to this state; and be it further

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

Adopted by Senate February 20, 2026

Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House March 3, 2026

Julie Fahey, Speaker of House