

Enrolled

Senate Resolution 3

Sponsored by Senator ATKINSON; Senators BEYER, COURTNEY, GIROD

Whereas the executive branch recognizes its significant historical figures by displaying portraits and busts of former Governors in the Capitol; and

Whereas the legislative branch, as a coequal branch of government, may recognize its significant historical figures in the Capitol; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly previously has recognized significant historical figures by naming the Senate wing the "Jason Boe Memorial Senate Wing" after former Senate President Jason Boe and the House wing the "Phil Lang Memorial House Wing" after former Speaker of the House of Representatives Phil Lang; and

Whereas the Senate's unique history can be recognized by honoring other significant historical figures who have served in the Oregon Senate or contributed to the history of the Capitol; and

Whereas the Oregon Senate values its unique history; and

Whereas visitors to the Capitol often visit the Senate and inquire about its history; and

Whereas the Senate wishes to recognize those who have played an important role in the Senate's history or the history of the Capitol; and

Senator W.H. (Bill) Strayer

Whereas W.H. (Bill) Strayer is the longest-serving state Senator in Oregon history, having represented Baker County in the Senate for nearly 32 years from January 11, 1915, to his death on October 18, 1946; and

Whereas Senator Strayer is believed to be the longest-serving state Senator in Oregon's second Capitol building, which was destroyed by fire on April 25, 1935; and

Whereas Senator Strayer was described in contemporary reports as a legislator "whose colleagues are all his friends" and as "one of the ablest thinkers and most impressive speakers in the upper house," who had the "ability to put through or defeat a measure by [use of] razor-keen logic or revealing ridicule alone"; and

Whereas another contemporary report described Senator Strayer as follows: "Give Bill Strayer a cause to champion, a sham to expose, or a grievance to protest and he is capable of swaying opinion as few other legislators have ever been able to do. Forensically, he can strike with the force of a 10-ton buzz bomb. When Bill really cuts loose on the floor it is an occasion no informed legislator present under the dome willingly misses"; and

Whereas the corridor on the second floor behind the Senate Chamber is lined with photographs of former members of the Senate, making it a gallery devoted to the history of the Senate; and

Whereas the "Senator W.H. (Bill) Strayer Gallery" is an appropriate name for this gallery behind the Senate Chamber; and

Senator Lenn Hannon

Whereas Senator Lenn Hannon is the longest-serving state Senator in the current Capitol building and the second longest-serving state Senator in Oregon history, having represented Ashland in the Senate for over 29 years from January 13, 1975, to January 31, 2004; and

Whereas Senator Hannon was described in contemporary reports as a legislator with strong leadership skills who was affable and “generous with his time and advice,” who “would not hesitate to show his displeasure,” and who was “known for his close bipartisan friendships”; and

Whereas Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski described Senator Hannon upon his passing as follows: “Beyond his record in the Legislature, Lenn Hannon was a person who was respected by all of those who knew him. He told it to you straight, something that was always appreciated by those who worked with him, even when they didn’t necessarily agree on the issue”; and

Whereas the room located at the end of the corridor behind the Senate Chamber and immediately to the east of the Senate Chamber’s north side aisle is associated with Senator Hannon because he would occasionally retire to this room during Senate floor sessions; and

Whereas the “Senator Lenn Hannon Reading Room” is an appropriate name for this room associated with Senator Hannon; and

Senator Kathryn Clarke

Whereas women in Oregon achieved the right to vote in 1912 and were first eligible to be elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1914, six years before the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified in 1920; and

Whereas Senator Kathryn Clarke is the first woman to serve in the Oregon Senate upon her election in 1915 to represent Douglas County; and

Whereas Senator George Neuner Jr. was reelected to represent Douglas County in the 1914 election but resigned in early January 1915 to become the district attorney; and

Whereas Governor Oswald West offered the vacant seat to Douglas County Judge Dexter Rice, but a controversy erupted over whether Governor West had the constitutional authority to make the Senate appointment and Judge Rice declined the Senate seat; and

Whereas amid the constitutional controversy and need for a reliable appointee, Governor West appointed his cousin, Kathryn Clarke, to fill the Senate seat; and

Whereas, given the questions over Governor West’s constitutional power to make the appointment, Douglas County scheduled a special election for January 20, 1915, to decide the matter; and

Whereas Senator Clarke then filed her candidacy for the office and ran for election to remove any doubt about the legitimacy of her holding the Senate seat; and

Whereas after large public meetings and an endorsement from the local newspaper, Senator Clarke won the election by 76 votes; and

Whereas Senator Clarke, along with other female elected officials, was profiled in the *International Woman Suffrage News* and the *Woman’s Journal and Suffrage News* as a model for women pursuing elected office after attaining the right to vote; and

Whereas in 1915, Senator Clarke joined the Oregon branch of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage and began working for a women’s suffrage amendment to the United States Constitution, which was ratified in 1920; and

Whereas the room on the second floor immediately behind the Senate Chamber has historically been a private room for members and staff to discuss matters of the day, accomplish tasks on behalf of the public and keep belongings safe while performing official duties; and

Whereas the “Senator Kathryn Clarke Cloakroom” is an appropriate name for this room immediately behind the Senate Chamber; and

Senator Eugene Debbs Potts

Whereas Senator Eugene Debbs Potts served in the Oregon Senate from 1961 to 1984, including as President of the Senate from 1967 through 1970; and

Whereas as President of the Senate, Senator Potts served a total of 196 days as acting Governor of Oregon when Governor Tom McCall traveled outside the state; and

Whereas during his tenure in the Senate, Senator Potts was known as “the man who would get things done” and as “a gracious man with an agile mind”; and

Whereas Governor McCall called Senator Potts “one of the most decent public men, anywhere”; and

Whereas Senator Lenn Hannon remembered Senator Potts as “one of a kind”; and

Whereas Senator Potts served on the Oregon State Lottery Commission from its creation in 1984 to his retirement in 2003; and

Whereas Senator Potts, while President of the Senate, occupied the office presently occupied by the Secretary of the Senate; and

Whereas this office has in the past been dedicated with a plaque naming the office the “Debbs Potts Conference Room,” which is an appropriate name for this room; and

Floyd G. McMullen

Whereas Floyd G. McMullen, born on March 24, 1913, and a resident of Hermiston, was killed fighting the blaze that destroyed Oregon’s second Capitol on April 25, 1935; and

Whereas Mr. McMullen was a law student at Willamette University and a volunteer firefighter at the time of the Capitol fire; and

Whereas Mr. McMullen was the only fatality caused by the Capitol blaze; and

Whereas parts of the ruins of the Capitol destroyed in 1935 are visible from the conference room near the Senate Chamber in the northeast corner of the Capitol’s second floor; and

Whereas this conference room is associated with Mr. McMullen because the conference room is the customary meeting place of the Floyd McMullen Fire Brigade established in 2003, a society devoted to Oregon history, public policy and public service; and

Whereas the “Floyd G. McMullen Conference Room” is an appropriate name for this conference room; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Senate of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, declare the following:

(1) The corridor on the second floor behind the Senate Chamber shall be known as the “Senator W.H. (Bill) Strayer Gallery.”

(2) The room located at the end of the corridor behind the Senate Chamber and immediately to the east of the Senate Chamber’s north side aisle shall be known as the “Senator Lenn Hannon Reading Room.”

(3) The room immediately behind the Senate Chamber shall be known as the “Senator Kathryn Clarke Cloakroom.”

(4) The office presently occupied by the Secretary of the Senate shall be known as the “Debbs Potts Conference Room.”

(5) The conference room near the Senate Chamber in the northeast corner of the Capitol’s second floor shall be known as the “Floyd G. McMullen Conference Room.”

Adopted by Senate June 7, 2011

Robert Taylor, Secretary of Senate

Peter Courtney, President of Senate