

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 16

Whereas Lana Laine Patricia “Pat” Stroud Straub, adopted Oregonian and wife of Governor Bob Straub, was born on March 11, 1923, in Villanova, Pennsylvania, and passed away at the age of 93 on September 24, 2016, in Springfield, Oregon; and

Whereas Pat Straub, orphaned in her teens and brought up by her stepfather, was raised a debutante in a wealthy Philadelphia-area family and attended Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts; and

Whereas Pat Straub first met a fit, young Bob Straub on the trail to Mount Moosilauke in New Hampshire in the summer of 1941, when she was leading a hike of youthful summer campers to Summit Lodge, owned by Dartmouth College, where he was working; and

Whereas after a whirlwind soldier’s courtship, Pat and Bob Straub were married on September 12, 1943, in San Antonio, Texas, where he was stationed for officer training in the United States Army Quartermaster Corps, and they enjoyed 59 years of marriage, establishing a trusted partnership based upon true love and devotion, before his death in 2002; and

Whereas after completing his master’s degree at Dartmouth College, Bob Straub took a managerial job at the new Weyerhaeuser mill being built in Springfield, Oregon, and the couple settled there in 1947; and

Whereas Pat Straub became a young mother of six lively, athletic and individualistic children and transformed herself, with the help of her new family and her own ingenuity, from a debutante to a knowledgeable gardener and mother; and

Whereas while raising her family in the Thurston area of Springfield, Pat Straub became convinced of the value of organic farming and famously “tortured” her family to good health with brewer’s yeast and other healthy foods; and

Whereas after moving to the West Salem hills, Pat Straub continued to develop her mastery of organic farming and healthy eating and cooking—including wonderful home-cooked meals prepared for family and guests on a wood burning stove in their farmhouse—eventually incorporating her knowledge into book form in *From the Loving Earth*, published in 1974; and

Whereas Pat and Bob Straub continued to enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, swimming and rafting on weekends with their family and friends, often in conjunction with their expanding farming, ranching and logging business activities throughout Oregon; and

Whereas Pat and Bob Straub frequently took long car-camping road trips around the United States and annually, over the Christmas holiday, traveled with family and friends to their favorite spot on the beach north of Guaymas, Mexico; and

Whereas Pat Straub, in contrast to her politician husband, who was less comfortable in public presen-

tations, was a political natural in public settings but had little patience for the political process; and

Whereas Pat Straub was, nevertheless, a fierce advocate for her husband’s career and a strong believer in his political and social vision as Bob Straub advanced in political office as Lane County Commissioner, State Senator, State Democratic Party Chair, State Treasurer and, finally, Governor; and

Whereas Pat Straub gracefully expanded her public presence in her role as Oregon’s First Lady from 1975 to 1979, hosting dignitaries in her farmhouse home, initiating the first Governor’s Run in Salem and penning a periodic column, “Letters Home,” published throughout the state, in which she shared some of the personal and official activities of a Governor’s wife; and

Whereas Pat Straub served as private gatekeeper, speech proofreader and environmental advocate for her husband while he was Governor and later carried the environmentalist banner proudly herself as a member of the State Board of Forestry in the 1980s; and

Whereas in addition to enjoying time with friends and family, Pat Straub pursued her life-long love of reading and gardening, as well as her newer avocation of landscape watercolor painting, in her retirement with Bob and after his death; and

Whereas Pat and Bob Straub donated a 10-acre plot of old-growth forest near their West Salem home to the City of Salem, which is now the undeveloped Bob and Pat Straub Nature Park, adjacent to the Robert W. Straub Middle School; and

Whereas environmental educators began forming the Bob and Pat Straub Environmental Learning Center in 1998—currently with two facilities, one located next to North Salem High School and another at the Willamette Heritage Center, which have provided environmental educational programs for Mid-Willamette Valley students of all ages for nearly two decades—naming the center after two of Oregon’s most beloved environmentalists; and

Whereas Pat Straub is survived by five children, 14 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren and outlived one child, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

Whereas public services for Pat Straub were lovingly held by family and friends on October 22, 2016, at the Northwest Youth Corps Center in Eugene; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, express our deep respect and gratitude for Pat Straub’s commitment and support as a strong partner to Governor Bob Straub and for her dedication and passion as a public servant working toward a better Oregon for all of its residents; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Pat Straub’s sons, Jeff Straub of Ashland and Mike Straub of Eugene, and daughters, Jane Straub

of Springfield, Patty Thomas of Curtin and Peg
Straub of Springfield.

Filed in the office of Secretary of State June 16, 2017
