



March 9, 2019

Pro Tanto Quid Retribuamus

*"Having been given much, what will
you give in return?" Dennis
Richardson*

From his service as a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam through his years of service to Oregon, Dennis brought an infectious optimism in everything he did. He was a true statesman.

I had the honor of Secretary Richardson swearing me into office. The intimate ceremony was held in the Secretary's office, with my parents, my sister Maureen, a few members and staff from the Capitol. Dennis spoke about the role of the elected official and the responsibility that we have to the public. He entertained us with stories, he inspired us with his own goals and

aspirations, and most of all through his actions - he set the example. During the 2018 legislative session I attended an event with the Dennis Richardson at Western University. He was scheduled to speak for 15 minutes but when he came to the podium, he was told he had the mic for an hour. He didn't even skip a beat and by the end, the whole crowd was mesmerized wanting him to speak longer.

Secretary Richardson visited Wasco County this last spring to discuss election processes. I admired how hard-working, benevolent, and diligent he was. His dedication to public service was only second to his love of family and devotion to his faith.

When Wednesday arrived - It was a sober, yet cordial day at the Capitol. Stories, memories, and tributes to Secretary of State Dennis Richardson filled the air- and for a day partisanship seemed to melt away as we all gathered to celebrate the life of our friend and mentor. May he rest in peace.



photo credit [Lynn Howlett](#)

The carbon reduction roadshow came to a conclusion this past weekend having visited Springfield, Medford, The Dalles, and Bend. Taking this show on the road to hear from Oregonians who don't usually have the opportunity to make it to Salem to testify was an important step to gain perspective on a very complex policy initiative. Those who attended shared a common voice in their appreciation of the committee's efforts to reach out and in their recognition of how complicated this proposed bill is. Hearing from interested parties throughout the state has been extremely valuable. I am grateful to all those who took time out of their day to participate.

We had an amazing Gorge-ous Night in Salem event yesterday. Governor Kate Brown attended and we had a full house of legislators and staff to share

the Columbia River Gorge with. Great to have Mayor Arlene Burns there promoting the city of Mosier – she is a wonderful ambassador for our community. Special thanks to Genevieve Scholl from the Port of Hood River, and former Representative Mark Johnson now with the Port of Cascade Locks for all the behind the scenes work that went into making this event a success.

Sincerely,



Daniel Bonham
State Representative



As many of the big concepts of legislative session continue to be drafted and negotiated, I am proud to report that we've made progress on a few more office priorities this week.



Since the end of last session, John Huffman (former House District 59 Representative and current director at USDA) and I have been working on a bill to provide grant writing assistance to Oregon's rural communities that don't have the capacity or expertise to apply for federal and philanthropic assistance that is already available to them. From small communities needing to replace a fire truck ... to school districts needing programmatic help, [HB 3110, Oregon's Rural Capacity Initiative](#), will make grant writers available to small communities in need ... so Oregon can maximize its access to additional resources. It's a win-win proposition for Oregon. Not only will state resources that have been traditionally dedicated to these bonding projects be freed up ... but our expectation is a 3 to 1 return on additional money coming back to rural Oregon when grant access is fully utilized.



Classified school employees are often referred to as the backbone to the educational system. These are the people that work tirelessly to ensure schools have the support they need to function. Some classified employees within the school system include special education teachers, maintenance staff, lunch servers, and bus drivers. Often, these staff members do not receive the recognition they deserve for all the work they do to make our school system function efficiently. **HB 2763** ensures that these hardworking individuals who serve our schools receive more recognition by establishing an Education Support Professional of the Year. We value the people that educate our children as well as those that serve them warm meals and get them home safely. The work these individuals do is as important as any other job in a school, because without them, schools could not function nearly as well as they do today.

As the son of a classified employee, I remember getting to school at 7 am every morning and witnessing first hand the support structure that makes education happen every day.

HB 2892 is a testament to the brave men and women who have the courage, discipline and ambition to complete basic training before they graduate from high school. The idea for this bill began when two mothers shared their sons' story with me. Their sons, Zain Hartsook and Brayden Anderson were denied the ability to wear they're marine military uniform to their high school graduation ceremony. The bill is simple, it will simply make it state wide policy that if a high school student finishes basic training before their graduation, they may wear their military uniform at the graduation ceremony. It brings me great joy to say that it passed the house this week, I hope to have the bill on the governor's desk and signed into law soon.



One of our goals this session is to advocate for foster care reform bills. We have several bills drafted that are beneficial to the children, adoptive families, foster parents, and caseworkers.

One clear problem is that youth in the foster care system are denied opportunities for adoption for fear that they will lose financial support to pursue their college education. [**HB 3015**](#) provides a solution by extending support to include former foster children if adoption occurred on or after January 1, 2012.

[**HB 3013**](#) is aimed to support foster parents who have dedicated years of their lives inviting foster children into their homes, protecting and caring for them. This bill rewards their years of commitment by offering financial support of college education to their biological children in correlation to the years of service as foster parents. HB 3013 pays a percentage of the total cost of education depending on the years foster parents dedicated inviting children into their lives and homes.

[**HB 3012**](#) seeks a study that would reveal where the system needs improvement. When the system is not operating correctly, crucial mistakes occur, failing not only the children in care, but also the caseworkers,

parents, and those who work directly with the children. This bill also asks to lower the workloads for caseworkers by 10% from the current service level.

Ultimately, the bills we are working on will not only be beneficial to the children in the hands of the state, but also those who work closely with these children, such as the foster parents, caseworkers, and even the natural children of the foster parents. We are thankful for those who commit their lives helping our children. We are also in support of the youth that overcame all life struggles and are striving for more than they were given.



March 15th

Congressman Greg Walden Town hall

11:15am The Dalles Civic Auditorium
Community Center
323 E 4th Street
The Dalles, OR

March 16th

Ways and Means Community

Hearing

2 - 4 pm Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center Three Sisters Conference and Convention Center (South Sister), 3800 SW Airport Way.

A Gorge-ous Night

On Wednesday night, we held the annual “Gorge-ous Night”. The event offered a wide range of food options including regional delicacies, wine and beer. While enjoying their dinner, attendants were able to walk from table to table and explore the various industries based in the Gorge.

My office, along with Representative Anna Williams, Senator Chuck Thomsen, and [OneGorge](#) organized the event. The turnout was impressive as state leaders attended the occasion, including the Governor, Kate Brown. The event was held in Salem at the Mission Mill Dye House at the Willamette Valley Heritage Center. At the end of the night, we held a raffle of several various prizes. By the end of the night, our goal was achieved, people left knowing more about the Gorge ... its people ... its beauty ... and the unique challenges it faces.



CAPITOL SCRAPBOOK



Oregon School Employee Association Advocacy Day brought Monica and Erica (from Madras) to talk about the challenges faced by classified employees.

Gary Plant of the Madras Medical Group brings a rural voice to Salem for the needs of Oregon's primary care providers.



Had the opportunity to catchup with
Rodger Nichols with the Columbia
River Gorge Commission.

Big winner Representative Mike

McLane!





900 Court Street, Suite 483 | Salem, OR 97301-3896

503.986.1459 |

Rep.DanielBonham@OregonLegislature.gov

[Unsubscribe](#)