

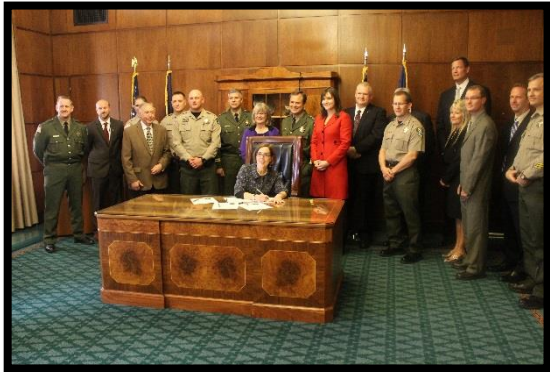


HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Although the 2015 legislative session is beginning to wind down, I am excited to inform you that we are striving to ensure that Oregonians who work hard have a realistic chance to pursue the American Dream. Specifically, this session, I have been focused on creating opportunities, rewarding honest and hard work, and expanding fairness for all Oregonians.

One way we are expanding fairness is through the passage of **HB 3206**, which increases access to post-conviction DNA testing for felons—previously, it was only available for those convicted of murder or sex crimes. It also creates a more reasonable standard by which a judge determines whether or not a person should have access to testing. “This bill is about

one thing - innocence,” said Rep. Jennifer Williamson. “It is about making sure that when our justice system is wrong, we have a way to make it right.”



Ceremonial signing of HB 2763

Another way we are creating opportunities is through the passage of **HB 2690-A**, which provides a property tax exemption for proven nonprofit housing developers that acquire land for the purpose of building low-income housing. “The seven-year exemption window, with an extra three years for special circumstances, gives

groups like Habitat for Humanity extra support whenever the economy is weak,” said Rep. Whisnant. “Cities and counties will recover the taxes on the undeveloped land when the family moves into the home. This bill will provide affordable housing for urban and rural communities.” This bill will have a substantial impact in our district as Habitat for Humanity is a major player in furthering a healthy and affordable place to call home. More than building homes, Habitat for Humanity builds communities and create the opportunity for families to help themselves.

Additionally, **SB 616-A** was passed, which requires the Secretary of State to conduct investigations of Community Housing Trust Account within Developmental Disabilities Community Housing Fund to ensure the funds are used for the purpose for which they were designed.



Military Appreciation Day

Yet another way we expanding fairness is through the passage of **SJM 11**, which urges Congress to improve and support efforts to bring health care to veterans in rural communities. Bottom line: We all need to do more to ensure that all veterans have better access to the health care that they have earned. To watch the video of my speech on the house floor please click [here](#).

In addition to the many bills that have been passed, a number of notable events occurred throughout May:

First, May 8th was declared by Governor Kate Brown as military appreciation day. As Oregonians have a long-standing tradition of serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, with thousands giving their lives in defense of this country, it is critical we set time aside to honor the men, woman, and families who sacrifice greatly to ensure our safety. Moreover, the contributions of Oregon military personnel have been key to maintaining freedoms and a way of life that Americans alike cherish. Thus, it is important to raise awareness of the sacrifices that our brave men and women in uniform have made in the past and continue to make in order to defend the United States Constitution and to preserve the liberties that enrich our nation. Additionally, it is also vital to honor the sacrifices and dedication of the families who support our men and women who serve.



Bikini Atoll Choir

Second, On May 22nd, the Bikini Atoll Choir gave a beautiful performance on the House floor. For those of you who may be unfamiliar, there were 67 hydrogen and atomic bombs tested around the Bikini Islands during the 1950's which forced the Marshallese people from their home. Today, many of the exiled Marshallese people have made their home in Oregon and other states across the US. I would like to take time to honor their bravery and sacrifice and are proud to call you our friends.

Third, On May 21st, I had the privilege of participating at the groundbreaking ceremony of the Peter Courtney Minto Brown Island Bridge at the Waterfront Park. I would also like to thank Peter Courtney, the city of Salem, and all of those involved in making this bridge a reality as this infrastructure is necessary to mold Oregon into a an efficient state that meets the needs of her citizens.



Demobilization of the 234th Engineer Comp.

Fourth, On May 27th, I had the honor of joining Representative Shemia Fagan, Sheriff Craig Roberts, and the Clackamas County Sheriff Department for the Ceremonial signing of **HB 2763**. This bill ensures that public employees who leave position to perform military duty will receive the

amount of pay entitled to them.

Fifth, on May 30th, I had the honor of joining Governor Brown, Senator Wyden, Congressman Schrader, Major General Daniel Hokanson, as well as family and friends at the Demobilization Ceremony for the 234th Engineer Company at West Salem High School. The 234th was deployed for 394 days of active duty services in Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. Members of the 234th Engineer Company I welcome you home and thank you for your service to your community and your country.

Lastly, On May 30th, I had the privilege of introducing Linda and Bill Bushy at the Orchard Heights Small Dog Park opening day celebration in West Salem. Bill and Lynda Bush took the lead in making this park possible. Thank you to Counselor Lewis, the City of Salem, and everyone else who was there to celebrate with us.



Orchard Heights Small Dog Park

I would also like to take a moment and encourage you to visit my [legislative website](#), which is constantly updated with community events and other pertinent information. On that note, we have put information on our upcoming forums and town halls at the end of this newsletter.

I am excited about what we have been able to accomplish thus far this legislative session and **am committed to actively fight for an Oregon that meets the needs of all her citizens.** If you have any questions or concerns please feel free

to contact my office (503-986-1420) as I prioritize meetings with constituents.

Respectfully,

Paul L. Evans
Oregon House of Representatives
District 20

Below, **you will find a brief outline of events to come.** I look forward to spending time with you and hearing what you have to say.

Public Forums:

- **Small Business Forum #4:**
Where: Independence Library
When: Monday, June 16, from 5:30 to 7:30pm
Address: 175 Monmouth Street in Independence

Coffee & Community:

- **Where:** Rick's Place, 123 Main St. Monmouth
When: Thursday June 4, 2015, from 7:00 to 8:00am
- **Where:** Urban Grange, 1594 Edgewater Street Northwest, Salem
When: Thursday June 11, 2015, from 7:00 to 8:00a
- **Where:** Ovenbird Bakery, 215 Main Street, Independence
When: Thursday, June 18, from 7:00 to 8:00am
- **Where:** French Press, 2725 Commercial Street, Salem OR
When: Thursday, June 25, 7:00 to 8:00am

