



**REPRESENTATIVE VIC GILLIAM
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE DISTRICT 18**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 29, 2016

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Oregon House Votes To Commission Statues Of Chief Joseph, Mark Hatfield
*Statuary Hall Memorials Would Honor Native American Rights Advocate, Beloved Oregon
Political Leader*



[Video: Rep. Vic Gilliam Pays Tribute To Chief Joseph, Mark Hatfield](#)

Salem, OR - Last Friday, the Oregon House of Representatives voted to commission statues of Native American rights advocate Chief Joseph and former Oregon secretary of state, governor, and U.S. senator Mark Hatfield. HB 4004, which passed the House with broad bipartisan support, establishes the National Statuary Hall Replacement Fund and directs the legislative staff to seek approval for new statues to be placed at the United States Capitol.

Representative Vic Gilliam (R-Silverton), who worked for then Senator Hatfield in Washington D.C., has spent several years advocating for a new memorial recognizing the Oregon political leader. Rep. Gilliam led discussion of HB 4004 during last week's floor session and paid tribute to his hero in a moving floor [speech](#). The Hatfield statue would serve as a tribute to one of Oregon's most beloved political leaders, who devoted decades of service to our state and our country. Mark Hatfield served Oregon as a member of the Legislature, as secretary of state, as governor, and as a U.S. senator.

The statue honoring Chief Joseph would recognize the tribal leader for his advocacy of Native American rights and the important role he played in the early years of Oregon's statehood. Chief Joseph was born

in the Wallowa Valley and became leader of the Nez Perce tribe. He was a committed advocate for peace, even amid ongoing and often violent disputes with the federal government over land rights.

The decision to pursue statues memorializing Chief Joseph and Mark Hatfield came after Oregon's Statuary Hall Commission recommended that current statues of Dr. John McLoughlin and Jason Lee be rotated out of the Statuary Hall exhibit and brought home to Oregon for public display. Their final informal vote named Chief Joseph as their top choice and Mark Hatfield was first choice in the public vote the Commission authorized to be conducted by the Oregon Historical Society.

HB 4004 directs legislative staff to begin the process for raising private funds only and commissioning the new statues immediately.

Having passed the House, HB 4004 now moves to the Senate for further consideration. Representative Gilliam believes the Senate recognizes this opportunity for a positive path of non-partisanship that sends two symbols of Oregon's courage to D.C. but also sets a symbolic table of cooperation as we close the current legislative session.

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