



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

March 16, 2017

CONTACT: Rick Osborn (503) 986-1074
Rick.osborn@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate commemorates longtime colleague and friend

SCR 7 honors statesman and physician Sen. Alan Bates, who passed away last year

SALEM – The Oregon Senate dedicated today’s floor session to honoring friend and colleague Sen. Alan Bates (D-Medford), who passed away last August at the age of 71.

In a unanimous vote, the Senate passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 7, commemorating Bates for his service to his community of Southern Oregon as well as the rest of the state. It was the only piece of business taken up by the Senate today. A bipartisan, bicameral group of legislators served as sponsors of the resolution, which came at the request of several former legislators. Sen. Alan Olsen (R-Canby) and Sen. Mark Hass (D-Beaverton) carried the resolution. Hass was a close friend of Bates.

“Alan was a good friend of ours,” Hass said. “He was a great friend of Oregon. We miss him every day.”

Bates – an established primary care physician in Medford, who built and maintained a family practice for more than 30 years serving Southern Oregon – served in the Oregon Senate for around 12 years, after four years in the House of Representatives.

Prior to his service in the Legislature, Bates had a long and distinguished career in public service. A Vietnam veteran, he served 10 years on the Eagle Point School Board, plus two years on the Governor’s task force on Quality in Education. In 1989, he was appointed to the state’s Health Services Commission, which was instrumental in designing and implementing the Oregon Health Plan. He was re-appointed by two different governors and chaired that commission for three years before resigning to run for public office.

Coming from a working-class family, Bates always knew what it was to work hard and the struggles that families can face to make ends meet. A commitment to service was evident in his professional, legislative and personal life. Over the past decade, he had come to be deeply respected for his policy and leadership on health care, education, the environment and the state's budget. He developed a strong reputation for being able to bring opposing sides together, an important function in keeping the Legislature moving forward.

###