



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### **Senate Majority Leader, Senate President, Governor Reflect on Service and Friendship of Senator Aaron Woods**

*Senator Woods brought executive experience to the Legislature and led on issues relating to artificial intelligence, technology, and economic development*

**SALEM, OR** – The Oregon Senate is mourning the loss of **Senator Aaron Woods (D – Wilsonville, Charbonneau & King City)**, who died Saturday surrounded by his family. He is remembered for his wisdom, service, and kindness.

**Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama (D – Portland, Boring & Damascus)** made the following statement:

“Senator Woods was a respected colleague and a dedicated public servant. In the Senate we relied on his decades of private sector experience to inform our economic development policymaking, and we appreciated his thoughtful approach to complex issues.

“He was a trailblazer in everything he did, always looking to the future and investing in opportunity for others. He was a cherished mentor to his staff, believing in personal growth for his team. My thoughts are with Senator Woods’s family and loved ones in this time of loss.”

A U.S. Army veteran, Senator Woods joined the Oregon Senate in January 2023 after a long career in technology, including as a senior executive at Xerox. He brought that experience to his legislative work, leading as co-chair of the Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology and co-chair of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development.

Senator Woods grew up on the South Side of Chicago and came to Oregon in 1996 when he was recruited by Tektronix.

**Senate President Rob Wagner (D – Lake Oswego)** paid tribute to Senator Woods, saying:

“Aaron had a deep heart for public service. He loved being in the Senate and loved working on behalf of the people in his community. He brought a unique and important perspective to our work, and he was a kind and trusted friend. We are grieving his loss, and our thoughts are with his family.”

**Governor Tina Kotek** recognized the Senator’s passing, recalling conversations with Senator Woods:

“Aaron often said that growing up on the south side of Chicago, he never expected to be an elected official. But to me, he was an exact fit. His life was defined by care and service to his country, his community, and family.

“As a state senator, Aaron was thoughtful and principled. He fought for every veteran to have the dignity they deserve. He fought for every Oregonian to have the education or training they needed to shape the life they wanted, no matter their background. He fought for the futures of kids just like the kid he was, who haven’t yet imagined the kinds of things they could achieve.”

Senator Woods is survived by five adult children. He was predeceased by his wife Shirley.

The Oregon Secretary of State has been informed of the Senate seat vacancy as part of the process for the appointment of the next senator for Senate District 13.

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