



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE OREGON SENATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2024

Press Contact:

Connor Radnovich

connor.radnovich@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate President Wagner Statement on Passing of Peter Courtney

SALEM, Ore. – Today, former Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney passed away at the age of 81, according to his family.

Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) is releasing the following statement:

Today, I share the heartbreak of countless Oregonians as we all mourn the loss of the most influential lawmaker in the history of Oregon.

Peter Michael Coleman Courtney was a legend — larger than life, with a passion for helping Oregonians all across the state, and especially in his beloved city of Salem. The sounds of the Capitol were never complete without Peter’s voice reverberating through the halls. He was bold and hard-charging, but also tender and caring, always looking for private moments to help a young lawmaker find their way.

His legacy is typified by his dedication to the humane care of animals and for the well-being of children and those who struggle with mental health. But his legacy is more than policy — it is a spirit of governing that he brought to Oregon.

Bringing his talent for public speaking from “West by God Virginia,” Peter’s true home will always be here in “Oregon, My Oregon,” the Oregon Capitol, and especially the Oregon Senate.

Peter loved stories of the Oregon Trail — and the sun will never set on his legacy. My thoughts are with his wife Margie and his sons and everyone who knew and loved Peter.

###