

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 11

Sponsored by Representatives KRUMMEL, MINNIS, Senator COURTNEY; Representatives ACKERMAN, ANDERSON, AVAKIAN, BARKER, BARNHART, BERGER, BEYER, BOONE, BOQUIST, BROWN, BRUUN, BUCKLEY, BURLEY, BUTLER, CAMERON, DALLUM, DALTO, ESQUIVEL, FARR, FLORES, GARRARD, GILMAN, HANNA, HANSEN, HASS, HOLVEY, HUNT, JENSON, KITTS, KOMP, KRIEGER, KROPF, LIM, MACPHERSON, MARCH, MERKLEY, MORGAN, NELSON, NOLAN, OLSON, RILEY, ROBLAN, ROSENBAUM, SCHAUFLER, SCOTT, SHIELDS, G SMITH, P SMITH, SUMNER, THATCHER, TOMEI, WHISNANT, WIRTH, WITT, Senators ATKINSON, BATES, BEYER, BROWN, BURDICK, CARTER, DECKERT, DEVLIN, FERRIOLI, GEORGE, GORDLY, JOHNSON, KRUSE, METSGER, MONNES ANDERSON, MORRISETTE, MORSE, NELSON, PROZANSKI, RINGO, SCHRADER, SHIELDS, B STARR, C STARR, VERGER, WALKER, WESTLUND, WHITSETT, WINTERS (at the request of Crime Victims United)

Whereas Robert “Bob” Kouns devoted the last 20 years of his life to being an inspirational and compassionate advocate for the rights of victims of all types of crime from every corner of the state, as cofounder of Crime Victims United of Oregon with his wife of 47 years, Dee Dee; and

Whereas Bob Kouns passed away at his home in Charbonneau on April 29, 2004, at the age of 73 with a strong spirit and sense of humor; and

Whereas Valerie McDonald, daughter of Bob and Dee Dee Kouns, was murdered in 1980 at the age of 26, and her killer has not been brought to justice for that crime; and

Whereas in 1983 Bob and Dee Dee Kouns, along with other members of Parents of Murdered Children, established Crime Victims United as a victims’ assistance group and a grassroots movement to advance the rights of crime victims, enhance the safety of all citizens and create a more balanced criminal justice system in Oregon through statutory and constitutional changes; and

Whereas in 1997 the Kouns retired as the leaders of Crime Victims United but remained active in campaigns and causes to help raise awareness of the needs of crime victims and volunteered to bring dignity and respect for victims, living and dead; and

Whereas Bob Kouns was a member of the Governor’s Special Commission Against Violent Crime, frequently visited the Lifers Club at the State Penitentiary, spent countless hours testifying before the Legislative Assembly and worked with numerous criminal justice agencies around the state; and

Whereas Bob and Dee Dee Kouns personally helped many victims of violent crime maneuver through the complex criminal justice system, offering wisdom and comfort; and

Whereas Ballot Measure 8 (1984), which failed by a narrow margin, was sponsored by the Kouns and Crime Victims United in an attempt to shift the scales of justice, which favored the rights of the accused over the rights of victims and law-abiding citizens; and

Whereas Ballot Measure 10 (1986), called the “Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights,” was sponsored by the Kouns and Crime Victims United and passed by a three-to-one margin, bringing sweeping changes to the criminal justice system and opening up court proceedings to crime victims and their families, giving them a sense of empowerment; and

Whereas Ballot Measure 11 (1994) was supported by the Kouns and Crime Victims United and was adopted by a large majority of Oregon voters, creating a new mandatory minimum sentencing law that provides tougher penalties for violent crimes; and

Whereas Ballot Measure 26 (1996), promoted by the Kouns and Crime Victims United, passed by a two-to-one margin and changed the principles of the Oregon Constitution that govern laws for

the punishment of crime to “protection of society, personal responsibility, accountability for one’s actions and reformation”; and

Whereas Ballot Measure 40 (1996) and Ballot Measures 69 to 75 (1999) all were backed by the Kouns and Crime Victims United in an effort to solidify in the Oregon Constitution certain victims’ rights, ranging from restricting pretrial release to restitution; and

Whereas Crime Victims United became a formidable force for victims’ rights in Oregon due in large part to the vision, expertise, courage and patience of Bob Kouns, who was a tireless leader in the fight to overhaul sentencing rules, protect the rights of crime victims, increase public safety and improve the criminal justice system in Oregon; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Legislative Assembly recognizes Robert “Bob” Kouns as the founding father of crime victims’ rights in Oregon.

(2) The Legislative Assembly expresses its deep condolences to the Kouns family, and joins them in celebrating Bob Kouns’ extraordinary service to the people of Oregon.

Adopted by House April 11, 2005

Readopted by House June 1, 2005

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 27, 2005

President of Senate