

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 8

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES

Whereas Eugene D. "Debbs" Potts was born in a northern California logging camp called Buzzard Roost, and despite the lack of a formal education, ascended to the highest levels of representative government in this state he called home; and

Whereas Debbs Potts was named after prominent Socialist and presidential candidate, Eugene V. Debs, but so as not to offend his Socialist father nor his Republican mother, Debbs Potts became a Democrat and used the name "Debbs"; and

Whereas Debbs Potts served his country in World War II in the U.S. Navy; and

Whereas Debbs Potts, who inherited his father's love of tinkering and fixing anything mechanical, owned a lumber mill and a cemetery and ran a machinery business; and

Whereas Debbs Potts founded the legendary town of Pottsville in southern Oregon; and

Whereas Debbs Potts served the people of Grants Pass as mayor for two years; and

Whereas Debbs Potts served in the Oregon Senate from 1961 to 1984, including as President of the Senate from 1967 to 1971; and

Whereas as President of the Senate, Debbs Potts served a total of 196 days as acting Governor of Oregon whenever Governor Tom McCall left the state, and in March 1968 as acting Governor, Debbs Potts managed the suppression of a riot at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem without a single loss of life; and

Whereas during his time in the Senate, Debbs Potts was known as the man who would get things done, a gracious man with an agile mind; and

Whereas Governor Tom McCall called Debbs Potts "one of the most decent public men, anywhere"; and

Whereas former Senator Lenn Hannon remarked, Debbs Potts was, in the great Oregon tradition, "one of a kind"; and

Whereas Debbs Potts served on the Oregon State Lottery Commission from its inception in 1984 to his retirement in 2003; and

Whereas, while serving as chair of the Oregon State Lottery Commission, Debbs Potts refused to settle for anything less than excellence, and in so doing, turned the Oregon State Lottery into the second largest source of state revenue; and

Whereas on December 19, 2003, this Democratic cowboy died at the age of 95, just days short of serving his 55th year in the role he considered most important: as Santa Claus to the children of Grants Pass; and

Whereas the Oregon Transportation Commission has named the Grants Pass Parkway Bridge on U.S. 199 over the Rogue River in Grants Pass the E. D. "Debbs" Potts Memorial Bridge; and

Whereas on February 2, 2004, more than 200 admirers attended the public state memorial service in the Senate Chambers; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly, mourn the passing of Debbs Potts and recognize his distinguished career, remarkable legacy and significant accomplishments; and be it further

Resolved, That Debbs Potts will be remembered as a true and good politician who knew and believed in personal integrity, an honorable man who dedicated his life to serving the people of Oregon; and be it further

Resolved, That the Oregon State Lottery Commission building be renamed the Debbs Potts Oregon State Lottery Commission Building.

Adopted by Senate April 7, 2005

Secretary of Senate

President of Senate

Adopted by House June 13, 2005

Speaker of House