

Senate Concurrent Resolution 8

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

In memoriam: Eugene D. "Debbs" Potts, 1908-2003.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Eugene D. "Debbs" Potts was born in a northern California logging camp called
3 Buzzard Roost, and despite the lack of a formal education, ascended to the highest levels of repre-
4 sentative government in this state he called home; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 Whereas Governor Tom McCall called Debbs Potts "one of the most decent public men, any-
22 where"; and

23 Whereas former Senator Lenn Hannon remarked, Debbs Potts was, in the great Oregon tradi-
24 tion, "one of a kind"; and

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

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

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

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

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

3 Whereas on February 2, 2004, more than 200 admirers attended the public state memorial ser-
4 vice in the Senate Chambers; now, therefore,

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

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

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

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