



State Senator, District 3

Ashland, Jacksonville, Medford, Phoenix, Talent
Co-chair, Human Services Joint Subcommittee,
Ways & Means Member, Joint Ways & Means

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Senate Concurrent Resolution 4 passed in memory of Hank Collins

Collins honored for dedication to health care reform

SALEM, Ore., — Hank Collins, a long time Jackson County resident who passed away last February, was honored with Senate Concurrent Resolution 4 in recognition of his hard work and dedication to his community. Joined by Hank's wife of 26 years Cydne Bean Collins, Sen. Alan Bates (D-Ashland) presented the resolution on the Senate floor. Bates said, "Senate Concurrent Resolution 4 is overdue. I'm standing here today to finish something we began more than a year ago."

Collins moved to Oregon in 1987 to become the head of the Jackson County Health Department. In 1989, he was appointed to Health and Human Services Director, where he was responsible for everything from restaurant inspections and mental health care to animal control and sexually transmitted diseases. "The community of Jackson County knew he cared deeply about ordinary people and worked tirelessly to help them help themselves," Bates remarked.

Throughout his time in Jackson County he worked to improve the quality of life for every citizen. His work to integrate the social service system in Jackson County has become a national model of effective collaboration. Collins instigated the changes that made Jackson County go from one of the worst air quality environments to consistent compliance with the Clean Air Act. He was also the driving force behind the Jefferson Regional Health Alliance, Family Drug Court and the Methamphetamine Task Force.

Rep. Peter Buckley (D-Ashland) worked with Bates to draft this resolution during last year's special session. Due to schedules and timing the resolution did not make it to the floor, but with the help of both Buckley and Bates it was revived this year. Buckley said, "Hank Collins was a visionary who believed that one person could make a difference and change a community."

For additional information please contact the offices of Sen. Alan Bates at (503) 986-1703 or Rep. Peter Buckley at (503) 986-1405.

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