

# House Resolution 201

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES (at the request of Representative David Gomberg)

## 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**.

Recognizes and honors artistic and civic contributions of Michael A. Gibbons.

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

1  
2       Whereas Michael A. Gibbons, a self-described “poet with a paintbrush,” was born in Portland,  
3 Oregon, on December 18, 1943, to Millard and Virginia Gibbons; and

4       Whereas Michael A. Gibbons is proud to be a native-born Oregonian whose family is deeply  
5 rooted in the state-his mother's descendants having arrived in Oregon by covered wagon in 1865 and  
6 his father's family having arrived later in the 19th century; and

7       Whereas Michael A. Gibbons began painting with oils while still in elementary school, and he  
8 attended Benson Polytechnic High School in Portland, Oregon; and

9       Whereas Michael A. Gibbons, at the age of 16, became the youngest person invited to join the  
10 Oregon Society of Artists; and

11       Whereas after graduating from high school and serving a three-year tour in the United States  
12 Air Force, Michael A. Gibbons invested in a small manufacturing firm and worked as a designer of  
13 specialty automotive parts; and

14       Whereas Michael A. Gibbons, at the age of 25, left his job in Portland and relocated to the  
15 Oregon Coast to pursue painting full time; and

16       Whereas Michael A. Gibbons' oil paintings of the Oregon coast and surrounding areas estab-  
17 lished his reputation for depicting the natural world with deep sensitivity and reverence; and

18       Whereas Michael A. Gibbons became intimately familiar with the hills, meadows, estuaries and  
19 wildlife of the Yaquina River region, and his paintings show a penchant for the interplay of light  
20 and colors; and

21       Whereas although Michael A. Gibbons' most meaningful art was created in and around the  
22 community he calls home, he visited many other locations to gain additional inspiration, including  
23 Washington, California, Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, England, Scotland, Ireland,  
24 France and Mexico; and

25       Whereas the ocean has been a constant source of inspiration for Michael A. Gibbons, and his  
26 seascapes are among his most vital works; and

27       Whereas Michael A. Gibbons' work has been featured in dozens of exhibitions in the United  
28 States and Europe, the most recent being the “Yaquina Exhibition” at the LaSells Stewart Center  
29 at Oregon State University in the summer of 2019; and

30       Whereas Michael A. Gibbons married the former Judith “Judy” Mortenson in 1988, and their  
31 partnership transcends life, love and art to become a true union of soul and spirit; and

32       Whereas Michael A. and Judy Gibbons are longtime residents and civic leaders in Toledo,

**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 Oregon, and they have always been intrigued by the town's history and setting amid the naturally  
2 beautiful Yaquina River region, seeing Toledo as a place where art can flourish; and

3 Whereas Michael A. and Judy Gibbons' tireless promotion of Toledo as a creative hub led to the  
4 creation of the Art Walk on Labor Day, which in 2018 celebrated 25 years of showcasing the work  
5 of artists who depict the area's natural beauty; and

6 Whereas with his own hands, Michael A. Gibbons restored the neglected complex of structures  
7 on Northeast Alder Street that became the focal point of Toledo's unique artistic community; and

8 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons saved "The Vicarage," next door to St. John's Episcopal Church,  
9 from dereliction in the 1980s, and it became the Gibbons' home and gallery; and

10 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons' studio in Toledo was built in 1887 as a Methodist church and later  
11 was used as a funeral home before he acquired it in 1992; and

12 Whereas the two-story building that now houses the Yaquina River Museum of Art, which  
13 Michael A. and Judy Gibbons founded in 2002, also dates from 1887; and

14 Whereas with his fondness for machinery, Michael A. Gibbons became proficient at painting  
15 industrial scenes, especially factories and ports, and he was commissioned by Gunderson Marine in  
16 Portland to depict the company's barges and railcar facilities; and

17 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons also painted the Georgia-Pacific containerboard mill on the  
18 Yaquina River in Toledo, and his 1985 painting of the mill proved so popular that a framed print  
19 of it is given to retiring mill employees; and

20 Whereas two of Michael A. Gibbons' original oil paintings, "Arnold Creek Estuary" and "Don  
21 Gray Country," are on display in the Governor's official residence in Salem, Oregon; and

22 Whereas the late United States Senator Mark Hatfield said of Michael A. Gibbons: "This man  
23 has taken a land we all know and love and given it back to us in a form we can understand"; and

24 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons is a signature member of the Oil Painters of America and the  
25 Laguna Plein Air Painters Association, and he also is a member of the Allied Artists of America,  
26 the Copley Society of Art and Christians in the Visual Arts; and

27 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons is a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Newport,  
28 Oregon, and the Knights of Columbus; and

29 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons has four stepchildren, Vicky Ross, Michael Ross, Randy Ross and  
30 Stephen Ross, a sister, Laurie Gibbons, a niece, nephew, seven grandchildren and seven great-  
31 grandchildren; now, therefore,

32 **Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:**

33 That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly,  
34 recognize and honor the artistic and civic contributions of Michael A. Gibbons, and we express our  
35 gratitude for his contributions to the State of Oregon.

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