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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas Michael A. Gibbons’ oil paintings of the Oregon coast and surrounding areas established his reputation for depicting the natural world with deep sensitivity and reverence; and

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas Michael A. and Judy Gibbons are longtime residents and civic leaders in Toledo,
Oregon, and they have always been intrigued by the town’s history and setting amid the naturally
beautiful Yaquina River region, seeing Toledo as a place where art can flourish; and
Whereas Michael A. and Judy Gibbons’ tireless promotion of Toledo as a creative hub led to the
creation of the Art Walk on Labor Day, which in 2018 celebrated 25 years of showcasing the work
of artists who depict the area’s natural beauty; and
Whereas with his own hands, Michael A. Gibbons restored the neglected complex of structures
on Northeast Alder Street that became the focal point of Toledo’s unique artistic community; and
Whereas Michael A. Gibbons saved “The Vicarage,” next door to St. John’s Episcopal Church,
from dereliction in the 1980s, and it became the Gibbons’ home and gallery; and
Whereas Michael A. Gibbons’ studio in Toledo was built in 1887 as a Methodist church and later
was used as a funeral home before he acquired it in 1992; and
Whereas the two-story building that now houses the Yaquina River Museum of Art, which
Michael A. and Judy Gibbons founded in 2002, also dates from 1887; and
Whereas with his fondness for machinery, Michael A. Gibbons became proficient at painting
industrial scenes, especially factories and ports, and he was commissioned by Gunderson Marine in
Portland to depict the company’s barges and railcar facilities; and
Whereas Michael A. Gibbons also painted the Georgia-Pacific containerboard mill on the
Yaquina River in Toledo, and his 1985 painting of the mill proved so popular that a framed print
of it is given to retiring mill employees; and
Whereas two of Michael A. Gibbons’ original oil paintings, “Arnold Creek Estuary” and “Don
Gray Country,” are on display in the Governor’s official residence in Salem, Oregon; and
Whereas the late United States Senator Mark Hatfield said of Michael A. Gibbons: “This man
has taken a land we all know and love and given it back to us in a form we can understand”; and
Whereas Michael A. Gibbons is a signature member of the Oil Painters of America and the
Laguna Plein Air Painters Association, and he also is a member of the Allied Artists of America,
the Copley Society of Art and Christians in the Visual Arts; and
Whereas Michael A. Gibbons is a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Newport,
Oregon, and the Knights of Columbus; and
Whereas Michael A. Gibbons has four stepchildren, Vicky Ross, Michael Ross, Randy Ross and
Stephen Ross, a sister, Laurie Gibbons, a niece, nephew, seven grandchildren and seven great-
grandchildren; now, therefore,

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

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