

House Concurrent Resolution 6

Sponsored by Representative GOMBERG (Pre-session filed.)

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: Michael A. Gibbons, 1943-2020.

CONCURRENT 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 was 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 called home, he visited many other places to gain additional inspiration, including
23 Washington, California, Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, England, Scotland, Ireland,
24 France and Mexico; and

25 Whereas the ocean was 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 was featured in dozens of exhibitions in the United States
28 and Europe, including the recent “Yaquina Exhibition” at the LaSells Stewart Center at Oregon
29 State University and the Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg, Oregon; and

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

32 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons was a longtime resident and civic leader in Toledo, Oregon, 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 he was always intrigued by the town's history and setting amid the naturally beautiful Yaquina
2 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 was a signature member of the Oil Painters of America and the
25 Laguna Plein Air Painters Association, and he also was 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 was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Newport,
28 Oregon, and the Knights of Columbus; and

29 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons died on July 2, 2020, at his home in Toledo; and

30 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons was honored with a U.S. Air Force flag ceremony and buried at
31 Toledo's historic pioneer cemetery; and

32 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons is survived by his wife Judy Gibbons, four stepchildren, Vicky
33 Ross, Michael Ross, Randy Ross and Stephen Ross, a sister, Laurie Gibbons, a niece, nephew, seven
34 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and

35 Whereas Michael A. Gibbons was a remarkable painter and a proud Oregonian, and he will
36 forever be remembered for his rich artistic and cultural legacy; now, therefore,

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

38 That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, honor and celebrate the life of
39 Michael A. Gibbons, and we express our gratitude for his artistic and civic contributions to the
40 people of this state; and be it further

41 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Michael A. Gibbons
42 as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.