

Enrolled
House Concurrent Resolution 6

Sponsored by Representative WHITSETT, Senator WHITSETT; Representatives BARRETO, BENTZ, ESQUIVEL, MCKEOWN, MCLANE (Presession filed.)

Whereas William “Bill Kitt” Kittredge was born in Fort Simcoe, Washington Territory, in 1876; and

Whereas in 1892, at the age of 16, Bill Kitt was a young cowboy in the wilds of eastern Oregon and worked for large cattle companies, participating in long cattle drives to the railroad and a horse drive that spanned 1,600 miles over the Rocky Mountains to Nebraska; and

Whereas by 1900, Bill Kitt had acquired a small herd of cattle that grew to 19,000 head by the time of his death in 1958, when he controlled over one million acres of land and was the largest independent cattleman in Oregon; and

Whereas Bill Kitt grew his enormous ranches by purchasing and irrigating unproductive land to turn it into meadowland, and by reclaiming swamplands and turning them into bountiful grain fields; and

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service recognized Bill Kitt for providing excellent habitat and feed for wildlife, especially for migrating ducks and geese; and

Whereas Bill Kitt’s land provided one of the finest hunting areas in the State of Oregon, but he was also a conservationist and leased the valuable hunting rights to the state to control for \$1 a year; and

Whereas though Bill Kitt never had a formal education, he was a born leader whose accomplishments included serving as Director of the National Cattlemen’s Association, President of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, Vice President of the Pacific States Livestock Marketing Association and Director of the Tri-State Livestock Credit Corporation; and

Whereas one of Bill Kitt’s proudest accomplishments was founding and serving as President of the Klamath Production Credit Association, an agricultural bank formed to provide loans to farmers and ranchers who were losing their properties due to lack of credit during the Great Depression; and

Whereas Bill Kitt rose from a modest start to make a tremendous and far-reaching impact on the lives of many Oregonians by providing good jobs for hundreds of men and women through his successful ranching operations, working side by side with his employees and other cowboys of note; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, honor William “Bill Kitt” Kittredge for his role as one of the most influential leaders in the State of Oregon during its first 100 years.

Adopted by House February 23, 2015

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate March 19, 2015

Peter Courtney, President of Senate