

House Concurrent Resolution 7

Sponsored by Representative WHITSETT; Senator WHITSETT (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**.

Honors Oregon pioneer, author and activist, Abigail Scott Duniway.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Abigail Scott Duniway was the embodiment of a true pioneer, traveling the Oregon
3 Trail and eventually becoming one of the leading voices in the nationwide struggle for woman
4 suffrage; and

5 Whereas Abigail Scott Duniway was born Abigail Jane Scott in Illinois on October 22, 1834; and

6 Whereas Abigail Scott traveled to Oregon Territory with her family in 1852, settling in
7 Lafayette; and

8 Whereas Abigail Scott married Benjamin Duniway in 1853 and together they had one daughter
9 and five sons; and

10 Whereas Abigail Scott Duniway wrote 22 novels over the course of her life, including *Captain*
11 *Gray's Company* in 1859, the first book commercially published in Oregon; and

12 Whereas the Duniway family lost their farm properties due to fire and Benjamin Duniway's fi-
13 nancial difficulties, circumstances soon followed by an accident that left Benjamin Duniway unable
14 to perform hard physical labor; and

15 Whereas following her husband's injury, Abigail Scott Duniway became the primary breadwinner
16 for the family, opening a millinery shop, running a school and taking in boarders; and

17 Whereas the Duniway family moved to Portland in 1871, where Abigail Scott Duniway founded
18 a newspaper, *The New Northwest*, in 1871, and served as editor and writer for the newspaper until
19 it closed in 1887; and

20 Whereas Abigail Scott Duniway worked for women's rights as a lecturer, organizer, writer and
21 editor, founded the Oregon State Woman Suffrage Association and the Oregon State Equal Suffrage
22 Association, served as one of the five National Woman Suffrage Association vice-presidents-at-large
23 and traveled throughout Oregon and the United States to advocate for woman suffrage; and

24 Whereas Abigail Scott Duniway advocated the use of persuasive words and nonconfrontational
25 tactics to further the causes she espoused; and

26 Whereas in addition to the cause of woman suffrage, Abigail Scott Duniway promoted discourse
27 regarding many other topics, including social injustices she observed; and

28 Whereas Abigail Scott Duniway died on October 11, 1915, after seeing women granted the vote
29 in Oregon but before the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified,
30 guaranteeing the right to vote for all women in the United States; and

31 Whereas Abigail Scott Duniway's tireless work on behalf of woman suffrage has led many to
32 honor her as the "Mother of Equal Suffrage"; now, therefore,

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

2 That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, honor Abigail Scott Duniway
3 for her pioneering work for woman suffrage and for her place in Oregon's history as one of its
4 earliest and most influential leaders.

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