

Norm Smith, Roseburg - Charter Member and Former Chair, OSCF

Our family has life-long connections and wonderful experiences with the Oregon State Capitol in Salem. Decades ago, I had a picnic with my mother on my second birthday in Capitol Park near the statue of the Circuit Rider; my father was testifying on education matters in the building; feeding peanuts to the squirrels was the highlight for me of that excursion from Portland before I-5 was built.

Numerous later visits and field trips to the rotunda, the observation deck, gold pioneer, the Governor's offices and the two chambers captured my imagination. In seventh grade I was an honorary page for St. Senator Jean Lewis (D), Portland and while delivering a message for her to Governor Hatfield's office, watched him introduce his visitor, U.S. Senator Hubert Humphry. My parents, who were very engaged citizens in Oregon, plus many great teachers and mentors guided my paths to the Capitol's steps.

After college at Northwestern University I moved to Salem for law school at Willamette University across State Street from the Capitol. This afforded three years of opportunities to intern at the Legislature for Weyerhaeuser's veteran lobbyist, Irv Luiten; to assist Frankie Bell's team during special session in the Capitol Guide office; to travel the state as a driver for Secretary of State Clay Myers *and to meet my future wife, Kathy, on a blind date.*

Kathy is from Salem and attended St. Joseph's school across Court Street from the Capitol Building; years later she would work under the dome with me after I was elected to the House as a Republican from Washington County in 1978. Our son, Spencer, was an infant in a bassinet in the early 80's in our legislative office during special session.

Capitol friends held a wonderful, raucous baby shower for Kathy, who managed my legislative office on the fourth floor of the new House Wing during three regular and six special sessions in the 70's and 80's. We reminisce about the privilege to be a steward of the Capitol - indeed, I was one of its landlords - and having our own keys to the "People's House", where we hosted and interacted with thousands of interesting guests, visitors, denizens and constituents. Today, Kathy and I reside in and explore the world from Roseburg, Oregon, and Spencer is a Stanford alum thriving in Seattle's tech world.

I pivoted, as it is said, from private law practice and the legislature to work for 13 years with AT&T at the breakup of the Bell System. As an executive in the law and government affairs division in Portland, Denver, and San Francisco I was immersed in federal, state, and local relations, myriad public policies and constant travel. I have been continuously an Oregon attorney since 1972 (and Colorado Bar, now inactive) with federal (U.S. Department of the Interior), corporate, and private practice experience in Washington, D.C., Denver, and Portland.

Our family moved home to Oregon in 1997 from AT&T in the Bay Area for me to join The Ford Family Foundation in Roseburg for 16 years as its first president. Honoring and growing the legacy and philanthropy of timber pioneer Kenneth Ford and Hallie Ford was a rare and wonderful experience. This reacquainted Kathy and me with people's aspirations in all corners of Oregon (and northern California), including in the city halls, courthouses, the Capitol and with many citizens and their elected officials. The Foundation continues to make post-secondary education possible for thousands of individuals and to help rural communities develop tools for sustainability and leadership capacity.

Governor's Kitzhaber and Kulongoski appointed me to the Oregon Arts Commission, the Oregon Cultural Trust, both of which I chaired, and to the Early Learning Council. I chaired Grantmakers of Oregon and Southwest Washington and was on the regional board of Philanthropy NW in Seattle; and, of course, **joined the Oregon State Capitol Foundation at its inception, later chairing its board. Over 20 years later the common bonds of diverse people move the foundation's mission forward for the benefit of the Capitol and Oregonians.**

In 2013 I retired to *President Emeritus* of The Ford Family Foundation. I serve philanthropy as a Senior Fellow at the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Vancouver, WA, and as vice-chair of the San Juan Island Community Foundation, Friday Harbor, WA. In business I enjoy being a director of Mutual of Enumclaw Insurance Co., Enumclaw, WA, a company with more than 120 years of history, wonderful people, strong values, and a growing footprint in the west.

Thank you for reading about the Oregon State Capitol Foundation and people who support its mission.