Cherry Blossom Day at the Capitol.
Photo by: Joel Zak

Oregon State Capitol FOUNDATION

SPRING 2024

NEWSLETTER

Phil and Ginny Lang receive the Bell Award

Recognizing those who have made outstanding contributions to the Capitol Foundation.

In December the Capitol Foundation Board presented Hon. Phil and Ginny Lang with the Bell Award for their leadership and service to the Capitol and to the Capitol Foundation.

Phil served in the Oregon House of Representatives from 1961 to 1979 and served as Speaker of the House from 1975 to 1979. He was honored by the naming of the House office wing as the "Phil Lang Memorial Wing" in 1997.

Phil currently serves on the Capitol Foundation Board and History Committee. His commitment, dedication and service to Oregonians span over 60 years.

Ginny served on the Capitol Foundation Board from 2009 to 2017 and was the first chair of the Development Committee. She played a key role in organizing a review of all the Capitol Foundation's policies to ensure we were in compliance with both state and federal requirements when the Capitol Foundation became a stand-alone 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2015.

Ginny and Phil are both dedicated, longtime and enthusiastic supporters and Board members of the Capitol Foundation.

Pictured above| Bob Repine, Capitol Foundation Board Chair, presented the Bell Award to Ginny and Phil in December 2023.

> *"It was an honor to recognize Phil and Ginny Lang with the Bell Award for each of their lifetime contributions to the State of Oregon and its citizens!*
>
> – Bob Repine, Capitol Foundation Board Chair

What's in your attic?

In 2021, the Capitol Foundation launched a search for "missing" portraits of former governors. At the time, 27 governors' portraits were on the missing list. So far, we have found 11 of the 27 "missing" governors' portraits.

One of the latest finds came about when Capitol Foundation Board member Norm Smith reached out to former Congressman Denny Smith. The result was locating the portrait of Elmo Smith, Denny Smith's father, who served as Oregon's 27th Governor from 1956 to 1957. The portrait hangs in the former Congressman's office.

"With each portrait we locate, we learn interesting background stories about the governor or portrait itself," said Bruce Bishop, Capitol Foundation Board member. *"It's a great way to learn more about Oregon history."*

Many oil paintings of state and territorial governors were lost when the previous Capitol burned in 1935. We have learned that some portraits were saved and others still exist in private homes, schools, universities, museums, businesses, public buildings, or in someone's basement or attic.

Portrait of Gov. Smith with former Congressman Denny Smith and Norm Smith taken by Joel Zak.

Please let us know if you have seen any of Oregon's missing governors' portraits on display or in storage. We would love to hear from you! Click here to learn more about our search for missing governors' portraits.

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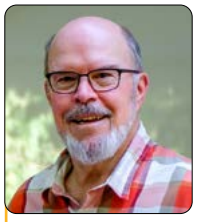

A Message from the Chair

Hon. Bob Repine

It's exciting to report the Capitol Foundation was in full "go mode" during 2023! This includes partnering with the Capitol Club on the Welcome! event. The Capitol Alumni Reunion lunch that many of you attended in September was a big success with great turnout. We continue our partnership with Legislative Administration and are working on a history timeline that will be part of the Welcome Center and will feature legislation that shaped Oregon's history when the Capitol reopens in late 2024.

We are tracking and staying closely involved with Phase III of the Capitol Accessibility, Maintenance and Safety project. While the work seems endless, we know the final results of this massive undertaking will guarantee a safe and viable Capitol for all Oregonians and out-of-state visitors for many years. To help record this undertaking we are partnering with Legislative Administration on a coffee table book to memorialize this historic renovation.

Let me conclude by wishing each of you the very best in 2024. I hope you find happiness in all that do in your personal lives and remember that we all play a big role in preserving and sharing Oregon's story. Stay involved!

Congratulations to our latest Civics Education Initiative award recipients!

The Capitol Foundation awarded a total of $80,000 for this third round of awards.

In December the Capitol Foundation's Executive Committee approved funding for seven Civics Education Initiative applicants: Civics Learning Project, Girl Scouts of Oregon and SW Washington, Next Up, Oregon Business and Industry Foundation, Politisit, Portland State University Foundation and Young Leaders Program.

The Capitol Foundation created the Civics Education Initiative to help projects and programs that educate students and adults about Oregon's legislative process and the importance of citizen involvement in public policy decision-making. Thanks to our donors and purchasers of Pacific Wonderland license plates, the Capitol Foundation will launch another round of funding July 1 through September 30, 2024.

Pictured above| Portland State University students from PSU Foundation's Center for Women's New Leadership program at the Capitol with former Gov. Barbara Roberts in 2022. The Capitol Foundation looks forward to bringing more students to the Capitol when it reopens in 2024!

Photo by: Andie Petkus Photography

Answers from the back cover:

John McCulley, former Rep. Tony Van Vliet and Dave Henderson

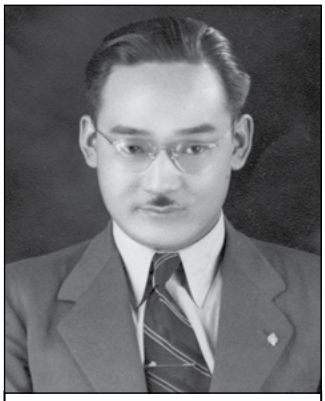

Photo credit: Minoru Yasui
Hanasono Studio
1945 - Gelatin silver print
National Portrait Gallery,
Smithsonian Institution;
gift of the daughters
of Minoru Yasui.

Minoru Yasui Day

March 28 is the day we honor an Oregon hero from a painful time in our history.

By Ginny Burdick, Capitol Foundation Board member and former State Senator.

He was born and grew up in Hood River. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Oregon, earned his law degree there and became a member of the Oregon State Bar. In 1942 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

But on March 28, 1942, Minoru Yasui was arrested in Portland and put in solitary confinement for violating a military curfew that applied only to people who looked like him. Yasui, an American citizen of Japanese heritage, was an early victim of Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin Roosevelt after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Yasui got himself arrested that night on purpose, to challenge a regulation he knew was discriminatory. While his challenge worked its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, he languished in solitary confinement in the Multnomah County Jail. When the Court ruled against him, he was sent to an internment camp in Idaho.

Yasui never gave up his quest for justice and civil rights. Upon release from internment camp in 1944, he moved to Colorado, where he practiced law and advocated for civil rights locally and nationally.

After years of work, Yasui's efforts yielded important progress. His 1942 conviction was overturned in 1984, two years before his death at age 70. His advocacy helped spur Congress to pass the bipartisan 1988 Civil Liberties Act providing reparations to surviving internees and acknowledging that the wartime camps had been the result of "race, prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership." In 2015, President Obama posthumously awarded Yasui the Presidential Medal of Freedom for dedicating his life to "fighting for basic human rights and the fair and equal treatment of every American."

In 2016, as Senate Majority Leader and with the help of my dedicated staff member Carol Suzuki, I was honored to sponsor, along with Representative Brian Clem and Senate Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli and legislators listed below, House Bill 4009, designating March 28 of each year Minoru Yasui Day. Carol works with the Japanese American community and others to make the day special every year. I'm grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the life of Minoru Yasui.

> **Chief sponsors of HB 4009**: Representatives Clem and Gilliam. Senators Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum and Thomsen.
>
> **Other sponsors**: Representatives Doherrty, Frederick, Huffman, Johnson, McLain, McLane and Nosse. Senators Devlin, Monnes Anderson and Shields.

Remembering Oregonians who added to the Capitol story

Rosemary Allenby, volunteer for Oregon visitor services, died Nov. 24, 2020, age 96.

Richard L. Angstrom, lobbyist, died Dec. 23, 2022, age 85.

Richard Banton, former Assistant Secretary of State, died Aug. 29, 2023, age 88.

Mary Jane Barclay-Wilbur, office of Legislative Counsel, died in Nov. 2023, age 100.

Hon. Gerald Barnes, former member of the Oregon House of Representatives, died May 9, 2023, age 91.

Alice Marie Bartelt, lobbyist, died Aug. 29, 2023, age 76.

Hon. Bill Bradbury, former legislator, Senate President and Secretary of State, died April **14**, 2023, age 73.

Hon. Bill Brown Ferguson, M.D, former member of the Oregon State Legislature, died Feb. 3, 2023, age 94.

Arnold Cogan, lobbyist, died July 15, 2023, age 90.

Kay Hutchison Cogswell, former fiscal analyst for the Oregon Legislature, died Sept. 9, 2023, age 86.

Hon. Ron Eachus, former member of the Oregon House of Representatives, died Oct. 14, 2023, age 76.

Hon. Fred W. Heard, president of the Oregon State Senate, died Aug. 1, 2023, age 82.

Hon. Roger Martin, former Republican leader of the Oregon House and lobbyist, died June 25, 2023, age 88.

Henk Pander, artist who painted portraits of Govs. McCall and Kitzhaber, died April 7, 2023, age 85.

Hon. Sue Pisha, former member of the Oregon House of Representatives, died June 29, 2023, age 80.

Hon. Alan Riebel, former member of the Oregon House of Representatives, died March 6, 2023, age 95.

Hon. Dick Springer, former member of the Oregon State Senate, died April 9, 2023, age 75.

Judy Ann Sugnet, political consultant, died April 26, 2023, age 77.

Hon. Clifford Trow, former member of the Oregon State Senate, died Oct. 31, 2023, age 94.

Hon. Joanne Verger, former member of the Oregon State Senate, died Sept. 22, 2023, age 93.

Making a lasting contribution towards preserving our Capitol

By Judy Hall, Capitol Foundation Board Secretary and former Chair

My first memory of the Capitol was in the early 1970s. I remember hearing my high heels click on the marble floors and echo as I walked through the rotunda. What an awesome place! I knew that I wanted to be more than a visitor to this historic beautiful building. I started working in the Capitol in 1974 and never lost my sense of awe. After I retired, I joined the Oregon State Capitol Foundation Board. Because of my strong belief in and commitment to the Capitol Foundation's mission, I have set up a fund through the U.S. Charitable Gift Trust to support this organization now and in the future. This trust is a tax-exempt public charity offering donor-advised funds. Please help us to continue our programs and consider leaving your own legacy with the Capitol Foundation.

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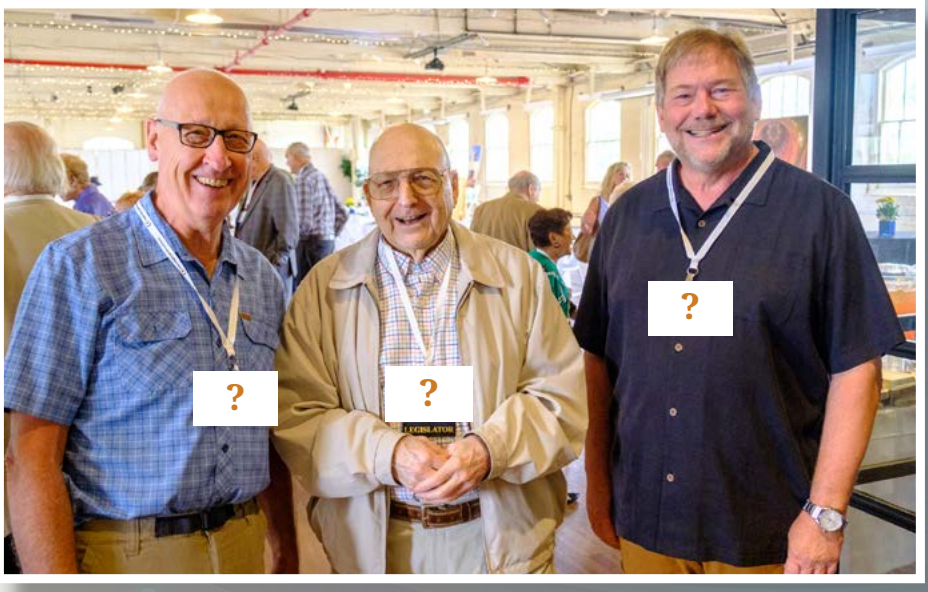
These three Capitol alums attended our reunion lunch last year. Can you name them?

Hint: a lobbyist, a legislator and a staffer.



Pictured above – top to bottom| Bev Clarno and Verne Duncan; John Watt, Jane Cease and John Lattimer; Mary Beth Millard Bassett, Roger Bassett, Jan Coulton, Danny Santos and Beth Graham
Photos by: Joel Zak

Look inside for the answer!