Oregon State Capitol FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2024

Photo by: Joel Zak Photography, 2023

Exciting Updates on CAMS Phase III and Reopening Celebrations!

Phase III of the Capitol Accessibility, Maintenance and Safety project (CAMS) focuses on revitalizing the 1938 portion of the Capitol, ensuring that this important landmark continues to serve Oregonians for generations to come. We are thrilled to share the latest progress and upcoming milestones.

Renovations are well underway, with key target completion dates on the horizon (these dates are subject to change):

- September 2025: Floors 1-4.
- Late 2025: The new Concourse (basement) level.
- Spring 2026: The building's exterior and grounds, including clean-up, the Walk of Flags, and enhancements to the front and back entrances.

As we approach the completion of Phase III, the Capitol Foundation is excited to announce plans for reopening celebrations. Events will be held in collaboration with Legislative Administration, and we encourage Oregonians to join us in celebrating this historic achievement. We will share details about the events through our publications, social media and on the Capitol Foundation website. Stay tuned for more details and updates!

Fun Facts!

Approximately **2,500 people** have contributed their skills and labor to this endeavor.

Over **21,000 cubic yards** of concrete have been poured.

A staggering **4,966,000 pounds** of steel have been used to construct temporary shoring towers, ensuring the safety and integrity of the building during renovations.

The scale of the CAMS Project is truly impressive!

Pictured left: South side (State Street) renovations and CAMS Project Manager, Jodie Jones, giving a tour of the basement level to Capitol Foundation Board members. Photos by: OSCF staff

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A Message from the Chair:

By Hon. Bob Repine

As I approach the end of my term as Chair, I wanted to share with you that it has been an honor to serve you and the Capitol Foundation. As I prepare to pass the gavel to Chair-Elect Hon. Gary Wilhelms, I appointed a special task force to address long-range planning of the Foundation's programs and priorities for the coming years. This group will be reviewing current programs to see if our objective and deliverables are being met. We will assess whether enhancing those programs should be considered over the next 3 to 5 years. The Capitol Foundation has a commitment to its supporters and donors to be "forward thinkers", which in turn, ensures we will be the best we can be in this role.

In June, we said goodbye to Board members Bruce Bishop and Dan Jarman. I want to extend my sincere thanks to both for their commitment, collaborative spirit and service to the Foundation.

I am excited to announce that Chane Griggs and Hon. Arnie Roblan were appointed to the Board. Chane and Arnie will bring unique perspectives and experiences and will undoubtedly enrich our discussions and decision-making processes. I am confident that their contributions will make significant impacts.

We continue working closely with Legislative Administration on the Capitol reopening celebrations. We are all excited and anxiously awaiting the reopening. I hope you will be able to join us!

Wishing everyone a joyful and peaceful holiday season!

The Capitol Names Project

The Capitol Names Project is inspired by Phil Cogswell's 1977 book, which catalogs the 158 names etched into the friezes of the House and Senate chambers in the Oregon Capitol. By digitizing this information and creating a centralized online resource, the Capitol Names Project makes it easier than ever for scholars, students and the public to explore the stories behind these individuals.

Hosted on the Capitol Foundation website, each of the 158 names is accompanied by photographs, detailed descriptions and links to further resources.

Phil Cogswell was a long-time reporter covering the Legislature.

Civics Education Initiative (CEI)

The Capitol Foundation initiated a fourth round of the CEI. Eleven organizations with existing or aspiring civics education projects applied. Thanks to the support from our donors and the purchasers of Pacific Wonderland license plates, we will be awarding a total of $100,000 in this round.

Announcements for the fourth round awardees will be made in early January.

2024 Capitol Alumni Reunion

Pictured top to bottom: Dan Gardner, Bob Oleson, Gary Hansen, Jo Ann Hardesty, Danny Santos, former Gov. Barbara Roberts and Rod Harder; Peter Merck, Judy Steigler and Earl Blumenauer; Craig Campbell and Gail and Gary Wilhelms; Bob Repine and former Gov. Barbara Roberts; Patsy Wood, Lane Shetterly and Diane Rosenbaum. Photos by: Joel Zak Photography, 2024

On September 5, Capitol alumni came together at Willamette Heritage Center to celebrate and reminisce about their time in the Oregon State Capitol and to catch up with dear friends. Over 100 alumni attended the annual luncheon, hosted by the Capitol Foundation.

Board Chair, Bob Repine, kicked off the event with updates on the Capitol Foundation's initiatives, followed by a special presentation from Jodie Jones, CAMS Project Manager.

We're excited to announce that next year's luncheon will take place on Thursday, September 4, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Willamette Heritage Center. Looking ahead, we hope to gather at the Capitol for this event in 2026, so stay tuned for more details!

Celebrating 100 Years!

On May 24, former Senate President Gene Derfler celebrated a remarkable milestone, turning 100 years young! Surrounded by friends and family, he marked the occasion with a joyous celebration at Capitol Manor. The event was filled with laughter and heartfelt stories, honoring a century of his contributions and positive impacts he has made in the community.

Pictured above: Gene's friends and family at his birthday celebration included two former Governors, Kate Brown and John Kitzhaber, along with former and current legislators and Capitol Foundation Board members. Photos by: Joel Zak Photography

Remembering Oregonians Who Added to the Capitol Story

Hon. Gordon Anderson, former member of the Oregon State Legislature, died August 22, 2024, age 89.

Hon. Peter Courtney, former Senate President and longest-serving state lawmaker in Oregon history, died July 16, 2024, age 81.

Hon. Nancie Peacocke Fadeley, former member of the Oregon State Legislature, died April 7, 2024, age 93.

Hon. Neil Goldschmidt, former Oregon governor and Portland mayor, died June 12, 2024, age 83.

Ted Hughes, former lobbyist, died February 15, 2024, age 93.

Welcome! 2025

The Oregon State Capitol Foundation and the Capitol Club invite new and returning statewide elected officials, legislators and lobbyists to a celebration kicking off the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session.

Join us February 6, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Willamette University.

For more details, to register (free), or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please scan the QR code to the right.

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Photo by: Ron Cooper

Who celebrated their 100th birthday this year?

Here are a few hints...

He was a member of the Oregon House of Representatives and Oregon State Senate.

He is an alumnus of Western Washington College of Education and the Pensacola Naval Aviator School.

He was a real estate broker at Coldwell Banker Mountain West Real Estate.

He was honored as a guest in the Oregon Senate in February 2024, at the age of 99.

He turned 100 on May 24, 2024.

Read inside for the answer!

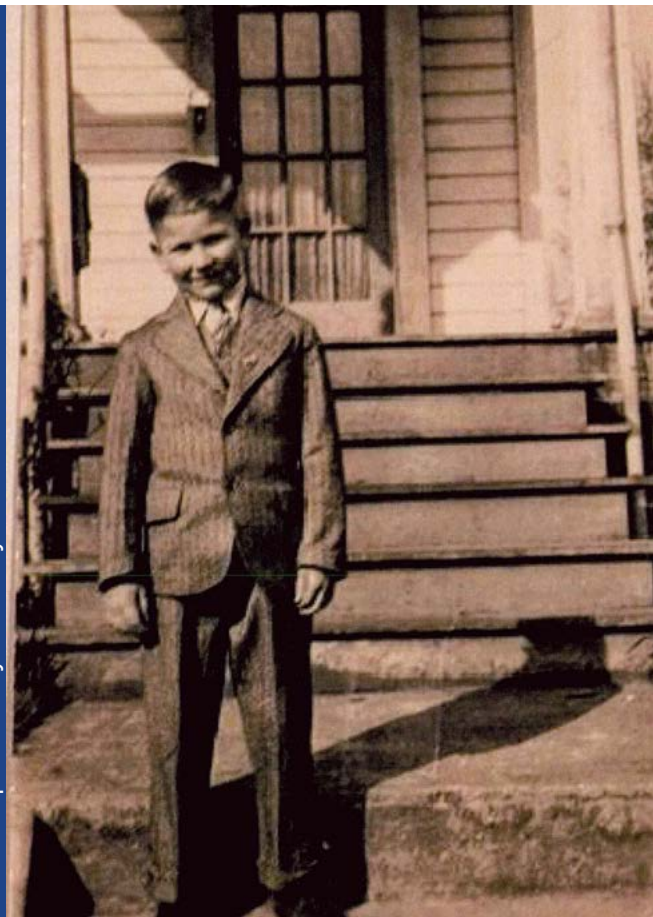
Photo provided by the family of Gene Derfler.