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Andy **OLSON - STATE REPRESENTATIVE HD 15**

Farewell Reflections

As my time comes to a close as your State Representative, I can only say thank you for your trust, encouragement and support these past 14 years. Serving you has been an opportunity of a lifetime. I've learned so much and met so many people from such diverse backgrounds. In the process, I have had the pleasure of assisting many of you with everything from issues concerning health care, unemployment, tax refunds, and the list goes on.

During the last few months, I have reflected on the many changes during my tenure. When I began in 2005, Ted Kulongoski was our governor. The Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) was \$11.14B, and 14 years later, the GRB is \$22.34B. The population has grown from 3.6 million in 2005 to 4.2 million today.

In 2005, Republicans were in control of the House of Representatives. One of my greatest disappointments was not funding the Oregon State Police adequately. Even though the population has grown, we still do not have an adequate number of troopers patrolling the highways, keeping the public safe. Today, we have 454 officers assigned to the Patrol Division. In 1977, there were 726 officers patrolling our highways and that was with a population of 2.5 million.

What hasn't changed is my desire to be your voice in Salem and getting things done for you. I look back realizing that a high percentage of the measures I proposed passed and that is being in the minority party most of my years.

During my freshman year in 2005, Rep. Wayne Krieger (R-Gold Beach) set me on the stage for success. Wayne was a retired Senior Trooper with the Oregon State Police and we connected immediately. As the chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, he split the committee into two sub-committees, criminal and civil, and assigned Rep. Jeff Barker (D-Aloha) and Rep. Bob Ackerman (D-Eugene) as chairs! Wayne taught me early on to work across the aisle regardless of which party was in control.

He gave me one assignment which was to rewrite the laws relating to Civil Asset

forfeiture (HB 3457). Having supervised an interagency narcotic team while I was in the State Police, I knew how important this bill was for Oregon. The 73rd Legislative Assembly was a long session, beginning in early January and ending in August. During those months, I worked diligently on HB 3457, reaching across the aisle, gaining support from my colleagues, ACLU, folks from the Department of Justice and Court of Appeals. My goal was to create a bill that would withstand any challenges in the future and give clear guidance to law enforcement and protect the rights of Oregonians

During the last night of the session, HB 3457 passed the House and Senate with only one vote of opposition. The measure ensured that 20 percent of proceeds would be given to drug courts across the state and 10 percent to Family Relief Nurseries. The remainder of the proceeds could be used by law enforcement with specific guidelines. These funds have been put to good use!

As I reflect on the many lessons I have learned during my tenure, I can only conclude that Wayne knew what he was doing giving me this assignment. HB 3457 was a model for me as I crafted and proposed new measures over the years. A common-sense approach involving those at the table who understand the practical application is essential....and the most important point is to gain the support from those on the other side of the aisle. Finally, I have learned that a good leader touches a heart before he asks for a hand.

I want to leave you with these words of wisdom George H. W. Bush wrote to a friend. It is good advice for all of us....

"I cannot single out the one greatest challenge in my life. I have had a lot of challenges and my advice to young people might be as follows...

- Don't get down when your life takes a bad turn. Out of adversity comes challenge and often success.
- Don't blame others for your setbacks.
- When things go well, always give credit to others.
- Don't talk all the time. Listen to your friends and mentors and learn from them.
- Don't brag about yourself. Let others point out your virtues, your strong points.
- Give someone else a hand. When a friend is hurting show a friend you care.
- Nobody likes an overbearing big shot.
- As you succeed, be kind to people. Thank those who help you along the way
- Don't be afraid to shed a tear when your heart is broken because a friend is hurting.
- Say your prayers!!!"

In closing, again I say thank you for supporting me as your State Representative. God has been kind to me...I have been blessed. Have a Merry Christmas and a great New Year.

Take care,

Andy Olson

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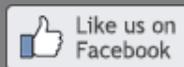
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