EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14-11

STATUTARY HALL STUDY COMMISSION

This Order creates the Statuary Hall Study Commission and charges it with studying and recommending to the 2015 Legislature whether to replace one of Oregon’s statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection of the United States Capitol, and, if a replacement is recommended, which Oregonian should be newly memorialized in the National Statuary Hall Collection.

In 1864, the United States Congress passed legislation converting the former House of Representatives Chamber into a venue for displaying statues of citizens from each state “illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services.” 2 U.S.C. § 2131. The National Statuary Hall Collection now includes 100 statues contributed by fifty states. These statues serve as a reminder of each state’s heritage and shared values.

Over time, recognition of influential historical figures has evolved and expanded. Reflective of the continuing growth and development of our nation, federal legislation enacted in 2000 provides procedures for states to reclaim one of their statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection and replace it with a new statue. 2 U.S.C. § 2132. Pursuant to these procedures, any state may request the replacement of one of their statues if the request has been approved by a resolution adopted by the state legislature and approved by the Governor and the statue to be replaced has been displayed for at least ten years. Replacement of a statue does not prevent the return or rotation of a statue after the prescribed ten-year display requirement.

Seven states have replaced statues since the amendment. In the same vein of making history more contemporary, Congress authorized the placement of a statue honoring Rosa Parks in 2005, and last year House Speaker John Boehner and Vice President Joe Biden led a bipartisan delegation to unveil the placement of a statue of Frederick Douglass.

Oregon has been represented by Jason Lee and John McLoughlin in the National Statuary Hall for sixty years. Both men played significant roles in the founding of our state. Recent legislative sessions have included discussion on whether Oregon’s statues should be updated to better reflect our state’s modern values and
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14-11
PAGE TWO

spirit. Accordingly, the Statuary Hall Study Commission is tasked with studying and recommending whether to update one of Oregon's statues in the United States Capitol, and, if a replacement is recommended, which Oregonian should be memorialized. The Commission, in addition to representing the diversity of geography and interests of Oregon, shall hold public meetings in separate Congressional districts and receive input from a wide range of Oregonians via public, electronic, and written testimony.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Statuary Hall Study Commission is established.

   a. The Commission shall consist of nine voting members appointed as follows:

      i. The President of the Senate shall appoint two members.

      ii. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members.

      iii. The Governor shall appoint five members, consisting of one member representing the Oregon Historical Society and four members of the public.

2. In addition to the nine voting members, the Commission will also include the Oregon Historical Society Executive Director as an ex-officio, non-voting member to serve the Commission in an advisory capacity.

3. All members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority.

4. The Governor shall appoint one member to serve as chairperson. The Commission shall meet at least four times at the direction of the chairperson of the Commission or of a majority of the voting members of the Commission. The meetings shall be public meetings held in separate Congressional districts in Oregon.
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14–11
PAGE THREE

5. A majority of the voting members of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. Official action by the Commission requires the approval of a majority of the voting members of the Commission.

6. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become effective immediately.

7. The Commission shall study and recommend to the 2015 Oregon Legislative Assembly whether to replace one of Oregon’s statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection of the United States Capitol, and, if replacement is recommended, which Oregonian should be honored in the National Statuary Hall Collection. Additionally, in the event that a replacement is recommended, the Commission shall also recommend a suitable location of honor in Oregon, open to the public, to display the replaced statue.

8. Before making its final recommendations to the Legislature, the Commission shall encourage input from a wide range of Oregonians via public, electronic, and written testimony. In particular, the Commission shall solicit input from schoolchildren throughout Oregon, as well as from historical societies throughout Oregon.


10. All agencies of state government as defined in ORS 174.111 are directed to assist the Commission in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the Commission consider necessary to perform their duties.

11. Notwithstanding ORS 171.072, members of the Commission who are members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to mileage expenses or a per diem and serve as volunteers on the Commission. Other members
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14–11
PAGE FOUR

of the Commission are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the Commission.

12. This order shall expire May 1, 2015.

Done at Portland, Oregon this 20th day of August, 2014.

John A. Kitzhaber, MD
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Kate Brown
SECRETARY OF STATE