

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND HONORING FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE JIM JONES UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM FIFTY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Jim Jones was born in Twin Falls and raised on his family's farm near Eden, Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Jim served as an artillery officer in the United States Army in Vietnam in the late 1960s, receiving the Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, while serving in Vietnam, Jim volunteered at an orphanage run by the Cao Dai Church in Tay Ninh Province; and

WHEREAS, upon his discharge from the United States Army, Jim served as a legislative assistant to former United States Senator Len B. Jordan from 1970 to 1973; and

WHEREAS, Jim returned to Idaho in 1973 and opened a private law office in Jerome, Idaho; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Jim was elected Idaho Attorney General and was re-elected in 1986; and

WHEREAS, while Attorney General, Jim played a key role in negotiating the Swan Falls Settlement, which set the stage for the Snake River Basin Adjudication, and promoted Idaho water management; and

WHEREAS, as Attorney General, Jim was instrumental in defending Idaho's sovereignty over its water and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Jim was active in the Conference of Western Attorneys General and led the successful effort for adoption of a Executive Order 12612 by President Reagan on "Federalism"; and

WHEREAS, Jim received the Torch of Liberty Award from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in recognition of his fight against discrimination; and

WHEREAS, from 1990 to 2004 Jim maintained a private practice in Boise, advocating for the rights of all Idahoans; and

WHEREAS, Jim was elected to the Idaho Supreme Court in 2004, having run unopposed in a nonpartisan election to fill the open seat of retiring Justice Wayne Kidwell; and

WHEREAS, Jim was reelected to the Idaho Supreme Court in May 2010, again unopposed, and became Chief Justice in August 2015; and

WHEREAS, as a Justice, Jim forcefully advocated for the Idaho State Bar's pro bono program, of which he was a founding member and chairman; and

WHEREAS, Jim continues to be a strong voice in the movement to increase access to the courts through reducing litigation costs and increasing court assistance services; and

WHEREAS, Jim demonstrated his independence and commitment to the rule of law as a Justice on the Idaho Supreme Court; and

1 WHEREAS, Jim believes an informed and active citizenry is critical to
2 the functioning of our form of government, and has witnessed many instances
3 where a concerned citizen saw a problem, rallied support and solved the prob-
4 lem; and

5 WHEREAS, Jim's numerous contributions to the community include chair-
6 ing the Special Committee on Governmental Ethics, Lobbying and Political
7 Campaign Financing with former Governor Cecil Andrus and former Supreme
8 Court Justice Charles McDevitt and serving as the founding director of the
9 Idaho Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program; and

10 WHEREAS, Jim has captivated us all with his quick wit and puns; and

11 WHEREAS, Jim has made immeasurable contributions to the Idaho judicial
12 system through his carefully reasoned and honest opinions; and

13 WHEREAS, Jim has been an exemplary public servant to his nation and
14 state, having served with courage, independence of thought and strong moral
15 character; and

16 WHEREAS, Jim elected to retire from the Supreme Court in 2017, at the end
17 of his second term.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
19 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
20 the Senate concurring therein, that we honor, commend and congratulate Jim
21 Jones for his 50 years of public service to the citizens of Idaho and the
22 United States of America.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
24 tives is authorized to forward a copy of this resolution to Jim Jones.