

A tribute to Judy O'Connor

First woman elected executive secretary-treasurer of Northwest Oregon Labor Council retires

Nearly 200 people turned out Oct. 10 to pay tribute to Judy O'Connor, who retired after 12 years as executive secretary-treasurer and 16 years as office secretary of the Portland-based Northwest Oregon Labor Council.



O'Connor was the first woman to ever hold the top post at the labor council.

Among those attending the dinner held at the Benson Hotel were U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian, former AFL-CIO president Tim Nesbitt, retired AFL-CIO international field representatives George Curtin and Bill Sam (who came in from Texas), and members of her family from Montana and Alabama.

O'Connor, 62, is a member of Office and Professional Employees Local 11. Over the years she has served on that union's Executive Board and represented union secretaries in collective bargaining and as a shop steward and

pension fund trustee. At the dinner, Local 11 Executive Secretary Mike Richards presented her with a plaque recognizing her for her years of service.

Earlier in the week, on Oct. 7, the Portland City Council passed a proclamation declaring Oct. 10 "Judy O'Connor Day" in the City of Portland. The proclamation was presented to O'Connor at the dinner by George Hocker, public advocate for Commissioner Nick Fish.

Sen. Wyden (pictured below right) told the audience that he would be a lifetime member of "the Judy caucus." He applauded her for her ability to bring labor together on controversial issues and thanked her for holding regular labor breakfasts with Oregon's congressional delegation.

"There you were ... making sure everyone gets introduced and everybody has a chance to be heard," Wyden said. "That, it seems to me, is what la-



Judy O'Connor received several retirement gifts, including a new Schwinn bicycle (right) from Joe Esmond of IBEW Local 48. Her reaction is pictured above.

bor has always been about. To make sure that working people and seniors will always have a place at the table. You have personified that kind of ethic."

O'Connor and her husband Tony plan to retire in her home state of Montana.



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