

2013 Thomas Jefferson Award: The Late Don McIntire



The Taxpayer Association of Oregon honors the late Don McIntire for his lifetime of protecting Oregon taxpayers and enacting real life change for the cause of liberty.

McIntire was the author of the historic Measure 5 constitutional property tax limits. Measure 5 not only capped property taxes to save tens of thousands of Oregonians from losing their homes, but also birthed a new spirit of taxpayer advocacy in Oregon. In 1999, McIntire helped create the Taxpayer Association of Oregon with Jason Williams which became a permanent full-time organization to fight taxes in the Legislature, at the local level and in the courts. Over the years McIntire testified at countless town halls and Legislative panels. He spoke out against large tax increases as well as small taxes others ignored and freedom issues like privatization of Oregon liquor laws and judicial reform.

The Thomas Jefferson Award itself was created by McIntire & Williams around 2000 as a positive means to honor those Oregonians who advance liberty. It is fitting that this year we honor the man who best fits the awards intentions.

Kitzhaber signs McIntire idea bill one year after his passing

One year to the week that taxpayer hero Don McIntire passed away Governor John Kitzhaber coincidentally

signed Senate Bill 862, a measure that McIntire spent years advocating. It wasn't planned this way but this is how it happened. McIntire, spent many years trying to get politicians out of PERS. He hoped to eliminate the horrific conflict of interest of having state lawmakers vote on their own state pensions. This obviously did not help in Oregon's public retirement system (PERS) spiraling out of control to what is now a \$14 billion debt crisis.

McIntire drafted several ballot measures including as recent as 2007 with chief petitioner Nicholas Urhausen. I remember McIntire joking on his draft political action committee title called P.O.O.P.E.R.S., which stood for Politicians Out Of PERS. Other priorities and funding dictated that the idea to get politicians out of PERS would have to wait, yet McIntire continued to speak about it at town hall events.

Our readers are so smart....

When our readers mailed in their ballots for the taxpayer awards back in August, they choose the awful \$20 million Cover Oregon (Obamacare) ads as the worst example of government waste. It's as if they knew that the website would have its worldwide meltdown a few months later and earn its award twice over!



Please give to keep us fighting for you!

Give online at OregonWatchdog.com
Taxpayer Association of Oregon
P.O. Box 23573, Tigard, OR, 97281

**The other winners
as voted by our supporters...**

Worst Politician of the Year



**"Dr. Do-nothing"
Governor Kitzhaber,**

In the middle of Legislative Session he left Oregon to go to the Himalayan Mountains so he could attend a Happiness Index conference. He could have stayed there for the past three years because what else can you point to that he has done?

Worst Government Waste

20 million Oregon "ObamaCare" ads
Your tax dollars are paying for "Cover Oregon" TV ads & billboards trying to get people to use the health exchange. In total, \$684 million has been spent nationwide in advertising & promotion of ObamaCare since 2009.

Worst Bureaucratic Mess

Overtime cheaters cause accidents
Tri-met let bus drivers run wild with overtime pay by allowing 22 hour shifts (one driver alone got \$64,000 in overtime bonuses). Yet the obscenely long overtime shifts had the disastrous effect of contributing to nearly two dozen accidents directly related to sleep-deprived drivers.

Golden Schnoz Award

Keizer "Tax-n-Take" property:
Keizer needs \$24 million to build a fancy shopping mall, so they taxed a nearby property \$6 million (despite that the property is only worth \$300,000) for the cost of improvements that were primarily for the benefit of the mall owners and not the landowner. The landowner now faces foreclosure.