

Thank you for the marvelous opportunity to serve and represent you these last 9 years as State Representative for District 39! Thank you. Thank you. However, the time has come, and I will not be running for re-election as I had been planning.

Some recent health problems (not life threatening) have made Cherie and me newly aware that we are here but for a limited time, and we must do our best to make the seasons of our lives the best they can be. It is now the season for more time with family, friends, and some more fishing and traveling.

As many of you know, I have had the honor of representing folks in Clackamas County for over 30 years: State Senator ('87-'96), County Commissioner ('97-'08), and State Rep (since '09). Also, I practiced as a psychologist for nearly 25 years. Let me briefly explain substantially why:

When I was 4, my family lived in a chicken barn on our Corvallis poultry farm for about 6 months while my Dad salvaged lumber from abandoned barns and built us a shack-like house. One day there was a flue fire, and the house virtually exploded with fire. My Mom and older sister barely escaped with their lives. Then a miracle unfolded that changed my life forever.

With no insurance, we moved from very poor to destitute. A neighbor invited us to live temporarily in their basement while literally the community built us a new house, complete with an actual working bathroom! I was astounded as people we did not know showed up in droves. The church lessons on "love your neighbor" became real to this little boy. And I learned an incredible lesson about social responsibility and kindness.

So now you know essentially why I became a psychologist and later a public servant. Cherie has been a solid part of these efforts for many years, and our family has been incredibly supportive. And a gigantic THANK YOU goes to all those who have voted, supported, and trusted me. We have enjoyed a marvelous and fulfilling opportunity serving and representing you, literally a high point in my life. Thank you! And while not running for re-election, I will serve out the remaining year of my term.

And may God bless you and yours and Oregon and our Great County!

State Rep. Bill Kennemer