

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2018-014**

Proclaiming August 3rd, 2018 as Dennis Buchanan Appreciation Day.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

1. Dennis Buchanan served Multnomah County as District 1 Commissioner from 1975-1982 and as County Executive from 1983-1986. Dennis Buchanan died on December 26, 2017.
2. He raised awareness of community issues as a journalist at the Oregon Daily Journal and KGW TV before joining Multnomah County and his reporting contributed to developments such as Forecourt Fountain (instead of a traffic circle and parking) and Waterfront Park. His reporting also addressed social justice issues such as harsh garnishment laws, which lead to reforms to reduce bankruptcies.
3. He later left his job as a stockbroker to join public service when he was appointed to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and thereafter was elected to office by his constituents.
4. He had a broad vision of service to the people of Portland and Multnomah County and was committed to the community and to his constituents and was unapologetic about using his voice and his policies to serve them.
5. He advocated for a built and natural world that was beautiful, as well as practical and sustainable in his leadership as a journalist, policy maker, and community member.
6. He was an advocate for wise land use and urban planning and took a crucial vote against the Mt. Hood Freeway, helped Multnomah County preserve the farmland of Sauvie Island, and traveled to Washington DC to fight for protections and a National Scenic Area for the Columbia River Gorge.
7. He found practical solutions that helped achieve visionary ends; he was an early champion for light rail, obtained regional funding and support for the Oregon Convention Center, and helped to get the downtown Justice Center built.
8. His style of leadership at Multnomah County was inclusive and accessible, and included holding informal lunches with staff from around the County to get direct feedback and suggestions, as well as sending personal thank you notes for acts as small as making a meeting room available to him.
9. He was dedicated to government that was fair, efficient and practical. He saw in the agreement between the City of Portland and Multnomah County known as Resolution A an opportunity to reduce costs and redundancy in government services by dividing services between the Cities and County and coordinating the annexation of large parts of unincorporated Multnomah County into Portland and Gresham. This also helped address challenges such as burgeoning suburban development and a notable lack of sewage infrastructure in mid-County.
10. He applied his sense of fairness and justice in his actions and decisions in all things.

11. He was a man of humility who believed in sharing the credit for good works and he worked quietly, steadily, and with tremendous integrity in the background towards a more livable, more sustainable, and more just community here in Multnomah County, Oregon, and beyond.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

August 3rd, 2018 as Dennis Buchanan Appreciation day.

**ADOPTED this 8th day of February, 2018.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:  
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By:

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SUBMITTED BY:** Chair Deborah Kafoury