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Oregon Ranks 11th in National Study on Civic Life

Portland, Ore.— Victor Hoffer has dedicated his life to improving traffic safety in Oregon. Oregon traffic deaths have decreased by 23%, fatal crashes by 18%, motorcycle deaths by 54% and pedal-cyclist deaths by 33%. These incredible accomplishments are due in part by Hoffer's efforts. Hoffer has spent the past 30 years in service to Oregon, serving on the Oregon Transportation Safety Committee, connecting with local and national organizations to enact regulations to improve traffic safety, helping establish the first ambulance service in Mount Angel and once serving as the first non-physician elected Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board of Washington County (he's a paramedic). He has recently been awarded a Regional Governor's Volunteer Award for Outstanding Lifelong Volunteer. His life is a true testament to the power of civic engagement.

It's by a powerful spirit of civic engagement, like that of Hoffer, that Oregon's has surpassed 39 states to reach #11 in a 2010 national study on civic life in America.

"The Civic Life in America: Data on the Civic Health of the Nation" is made available through a partnership between the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC). The CNCS and NCoC define civic life (or civic health or civic engagement) as the common thread of participation in and building of one's community. The study is meant to assess the healthiness of America's communities based on how often residents engage in a variety of civic activities. In the study, civic life is measured by considering five key areas: service, participating in a group, connecting to information and current events, social connectedness and political action. The findings reveal:

- Oregon ranks 3rd in the rate of those 18+ who say that they eat dinner with their family at least a few times per week
- Oregon ranked 6th in working with neighbors to solve community problems in 2009
- Oregon ranks 7th in the percentage of those 18+ who engage in at least one type of political act
- Oregon ranks 8th in the rate of those 18+ who talk about politics with friends and family at least a few times per week
- Oregon ranks 12th in the rate of people 18+ who belong to religious, neighborhood, school or sports groups in their communities
- Oregon ranked 14th in the nation for volunteering among residents ages sixteen and older in 2009
- Oregon ranked 14th in voter-turnout among 18+ citizens for the November 2008 election
- Oregon ranks 24th among all states in voter-registration rate
- Oregon ranks 38th in the rate of people 18+ who exchange favors with their neighbors

"Oregonians should be incredibly proud of themselves," said Emily Gilliland, chair of Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service. "Their passion for strengthening their communities is shown true by Oregon's high rankings in this new report. We should all feel incredibly inspired to know we are forging the right path and there are even greater accomplishments ahead."

The civic life report features trends, statistics, tools, resources, and information on civic participation for the nation, U.S. regions, states and major cities. For the complete report, visit www.civic.serve.gov



The CNCS also distributes its Volunteering in America report which focuses more specifically on volunteerism in the United States. The 2010 report finds that 63.4 million Americans volunteered to help their communities in 2009, up an impressive 1.6 million from last year. More information on the Volunteering in America report can be found at www.volunteeringinamerica.gov

Oregon Volunteers is the Commission for Voluntary Action and Service promoting and supporting AmeriCorps, volunteerism and civic engagement to strengthen Oregon communities. For more information about Oregon Volunteers, please visit www.oregonvolunteers.org

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