



HONORARY DEGREE CITATION

Pauline "Polly" Dyer DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS

Polly Dyer, there is no doubt that the State of Washington would look very different if you and your husband John had not moved here in 1950. Millions of acres of Washington's most pristine wilderness areas, including the North Cascades and Olympic National Parks, bear witness to your legacy of environmental activism and advocacy.

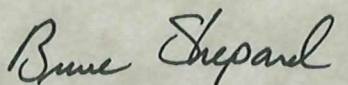
The daughter of a Coast Guard engineer whose postings took the family all over the country, you learned to love nature at an early age, delighted by summer trips to the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay. But it was in Alaska that you truly came alive to the inspirational power of the outdoors, the possibilities for a woman to explore it on her own, and, the critical need to protect wild places from the lasting encroachments of humanity.

For over 60 years your tireless advocacy for the conservation of public lands has ranged from grand to grassroots. Serving by gubernatorial appointment on numerous forest and land use boards, you were often the sole environmentalist—and woman—outnumbered but never outworked, ultimately convincing others to abandon plans for logging and development of wilderness areas. As a founding member of the North Cascades Conservation Council, you were at the forefront of the intense efforts that led to the creation of North Cascades National Park. Your national leadership and testimony before the U.S. Congress led to the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, which has since protected more than 100 million acres from development.

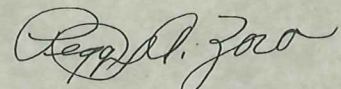
As a steward not only of the land, but the conservation movement itself, you served on numerous boards and foundations, including the Mountaineers, founded the first chapter of the Sierra Club outside of California, and served as the first woman president of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. You led Girl Scout hikes, fed and sheltered wilderness workers, and passed your passion for wild places on to the next generation of conservation leaders, many of whom learned how to fight for wilderness preservation right in your living room.

For your dedication to safeguarding the wilderness of Washington and beyond, and inspiring succeeding generations of conservationists with your example, Western Washington University is proud to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

Dated this 22nd Day of March, 2014



Bruce Shepard, President



Peggy A Zoro, Chair, Board of Trustees