

BOB JENSON
State Representative
DISTRICT 58
UMATILLA COUNTY



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEASURE: HB 3243
EXHIBIT: 1
H BUSINESS & LABOR
DATE: 3-18-2013 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Rep. Jenson

Good Morning, for the record I am Representative Bob Jenson.

I am here today in support of HB 3243. This is known as the Buddy Herron bill because it makes a small change to PERS statutes to assist one person, my constituent, who was fatally stabbed, on November 29, 2011 while trying to assist what appeared to be a motorist in distress.

Representative Smith will give you the facts of that situation and our requested solution to a tragic wrong. I would like to take a moment to introduce you to Officer Herron's life.

Buddy was born on August 25, 1969, to Dave and Patricia Mort, in Chicago, Illinois. The family moved to Tolleson, Arizona, when he was 8 years of age. Buddy attended Tolleson Union High School in Arizona.

Buddy joined the Navy in 1988; continuing his career in the military as a reserve when he was honorably discharged in 1996.

Buddy met the love of his life, Kim Reeves, in Phoenix, Arizona and they were married on November 17, 1990.

Buddy began his career as a correctional officer with the Arizona Department of Corrections in 1999. Working there until 2007, when Buddy accepted a correctional officer position at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, which allowed the family to live closer to Kim's family.

Buddy was a handy man, good and talented friend and volunteered as a reserve firefighter for the Helix Fire Department for the past four and a half years.

Buddy is survived by his wife, Kim; their 4 children, James, 20, Joshua, 16, Jacob, 13, and Jenna, 11 and other family members include, their granddaughter Shelbie Farley; parents Dave and Patricia Mort; brothers Pete, Bobby and Scott Mort of Tennessee; and sister DeAnna Weleba of California. Buddy was active in his local LDS church and was a faithful husband and dutiful father.

This bill will not change the world but it will offer a small benefit to a family that had their husband and father taken too soon for reasons no one will ever understand.

Thank you