



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HCR 202

Chief Sponsor: Rep. Gorsek

House Committee on Rules

Public Hearing and Possible Work Session February 3rd, 2014

3:00 p.m., Hearing Room 50

Good Afternoon Chair Hoyle and Members of the Committee. For the record, I am Chris Gorsek, Representative for District 49 encompassing the cities of Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village, and Gresham. I am here today to speak in support of HCR 202. HCR 202 Recognizes and honors Reserve Sergeant Scott Collins and Reserve Deputy Mark Whitehead for their service to this state. This resolution would authorize placement of a roadside memorial sign to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice of two Multnomah County Sheriff's Deputies killed in the line of duty.

On February 26, 1993 Reserve Sergeant Scott Collins and Reserve Deputy Mark Whitehead were in a marked patrol vehicle travelling eastbound on I-84 near what is now the Fairview Parkway overpass. A driver in the inside lane of I-84 westbound lost control of his vehicle, hitting the grass median strip and flew into the eastbound lanes. The undercarriage of his vehicle sheared off the top of the patrol vehicle, killing both reserve deputies. The driver blood alcohol content at the time was over .20%.

I am happy to be the Chief sponsor of the bill because I feel it is important that we honor our public safety officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Their deaths are commemorated at the Police Officer Memorial Walls in Washington DC and at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem, Oregon.

As a former police officer with members of my family currently involved in law enforcement, I am fully aware of the risks and responsibilities these fine men faced every day. I believe it is extremely important that these officers have a place in their community which recognizes their sacrifice. It should also be pointed out that these highly trained individuals were volunteers. They took time away from their private lives to be available to assist police and other rescue workers. They performed their duties and received no monetary compensation. It is tragic that the deputies lives were taken by someone who chose to break the law and drive with a blood alcohol level much higher than the legal limit. It is my hope that as people travel along I 84 they will pause a moment to remember these brave men.

