



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



Bureau of Police

Charlie Hales, Mayor

Lawrence P. O'Dea III, Chief of Police

1111 S.W. 2nd Avenue • Portland, OR 97204 • Phone: 503-823-0000 • Fax: 503-823-0342

Integrity • Compassion • Accountability • Respect • Excellence • Service

February 11, 2015

Oregon State Legislature
Members of the House Rules Committee
C/O Representative Val Hoyle, Chair
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Appreciation for HCR 10

Dear Chair Hoyle and Members of the House Rules Committee,

Thank you for taking a moment during this busy legislative session to honor one of Portland Police Bureau's finest, Officer Thomas Jeffries, via House Concurrent Resolution 10. Today, Officer Jeffries' memory serves as a reminder to us all that we do have real heroes and role models walking among us each and every day.

Every law enforcement career begins with an oath of service to bear faithful allegiance to the State of Oregon, to uphold the laws of our great State, and to reflect the highest ideals of this profession. The unspoken, yet knowingly embraced aspect of this oath involves a police officer's courage to put oneself in harm's way for the protection and betterment of the community served.

Tragically, the number of police officers killed in the line of duty is on the rise, with a total of 126 officers lost nationwide in 2014. While each of these deaths make for a distinct and separate tragedy, all are connected to the non-routine nature of a day-to-day police work, albeit responding to a welfare call, issuing a citation, engaging in pursuit, conducting an investigation, or serving a warrant.

The loss of an officer is absolutely devastating to the public, the agency, and the friends and family of the involved member. However, line of duty deaths always show the impact law enforcement officials have on their communities. Here, Officer Jeffries was shot and killed apprehending a man wanted in connection with the shooting of a child. At a mere 35 years of age, he had pursued his education, was happily married, and was anticipating becoming a father. Oregon may have raised Officer Jeffries, but he contributed to its social fabric, and died upholding its Oath.

Thank you again for remembering Portland Police Bureau's Officer Jeffries, as he holds a very special place in our legacy and will never be forgotten.

Respectfully,

LAWRENCE P. O'DEA III
Chief of Police

Community Policing: Making the Difference Together
An Equal Opportunity Employer

City Information Line: 503-823-4000, TTY (for hearing and speech impaired): 503-823-6868 Website: www.portlandpolice.com

Community Policing: Making the Difference Together
An Equal Opportunity Employer

City Information Line: 503-823-4000, TTY (for hearing and speech impaired): 503-823-6868 Website: www.portlandpolice.com