

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

**SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:**

**Action:**

**Vote:**

**Yeas:**

**Nays:**

**Exc.:**

**Prepared By:** Cheyenne Ross, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/24

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** In memoriam: Army Specialist Nickolas S. Welch, 1987-2013.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** Nickolas S. “Noodle” Welch was born on March 16, 1987; attended school in Mill City, Oregon; graduated from Santiam High School in 2005; and obtained an associate degree in business management from the College of the Siskiyous. He was both a scholar and an athlete; known for his wit, generosity, and loyalty.

He joined the United States Army in August 2010 and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia. He was critically wounded on July 23, 2013, during his first tour of duty, by a suicide bomber in Soltan Kheyl, Afghanistan. He was transported to a hospital in Germany and then to Walter Reed in Bethesda, Maryland, where he died on August 6, 2013.

Among the honors and acknowledgements of his sacrifice, are the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, NATO Medal, and Combat Action Badge.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 recognizes the service and loss of United States Army Specialist Nickolas S. Welch.