



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



Bureau of Police

Charlie Hales, Mayor

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April 14, 2015

Senator Diane Rosenbaum, Chair
Senate Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, NE, Hearing Room C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Appreciation for HCR 10-A

Dear Chair Rosenbaum and Members of the 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-A. 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

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