

**Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 30
“Designating Oregon as the 15th Purple Heart State in the Union”**

**To
Oregon House Committee on Rules**

May 27th, 2015

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For the record,

My name is Joel Dulashanti. I am the Portland, Chapter # 72 adjutant to The Military Order of Purple Heart.

I want to first thank Chairman Val Hoyle and Madam Vice-Chair Smith Warner for giving me this opportunity to speak. Respective members of the committee and state legislature, I will be available to answer any questions at the end of this testimony.

The ideal behind support for our veterans extends to recognition. In order for us citizens to recognize a veteran we should first understand, or be aware of what a veteran is. A veteran is a member of our local community that decided to serve America in times of conflict and in times of peace. Through our many different local spheres, throughout the generations, and our history, the multitude of what that means varies.

Oregon has the opportunity to be on the forefront, throughout the country, supporting veterans, creating itself as the 15th recognized Purple Heart State, helping to foster an environment that makes it's citizens aware of the veteran population.

Every day I am aware of sacrifice. Why? Because, every day I have to put on a prosthetic, and I have to think with every step I take about that prosthetic. My limb-loss came from combat in Afghanistan. I am fortunate, that live in a great country that can give me the means to walk and not roll around in a wheel chair. And I know even if we weren't such a capable country, that there are, already citizens out there that are and can be individually capable of making that so.

I don't want to think about the 'if-so's' but I want to hope for the 'if's everybody, was aware of the sacrifices the veteran has to make for all of us to be free.'

Thank you again for your time.