

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development

MEASURE: HB 2981
CARRIER: Rep. Bentz

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/20/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 03/13, 03/20

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Bentz, Davis, Gorsek, Lively, McKeown, McLain

Exc: 1 - Hack

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Transportation to erect and maintain a Fallen Hero roadside memorial sign for Specialist Mabry James Anders. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Appropriate way to honor sacrifice of Specialist Anders

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Specialist Mabry James Anders was born in Yuma, Arizona, and grew up in Baker City, Oregon, graduating from Baker Alternative School in 2009. He joined the United States Army and, in January 2010, was assigned to the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. He was deployed to Afghanistan, where he served as a wheeled-vehicle mechanic. Specialist Anders was killed in action in Kalagush, Afghanistan, on August 27, 2012; he was buried with full military honors in Haines, Oregon.

The Legislative Assembly established the Roadside Memorial Fund in 2011 for the purpose of collecting monies and appropriating them to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to cover the cost of erecting and maintaining roadside memorial signs commemorating law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Two later measures, House Bill 2708 (2013) and House Bill 3494 (2013) expanded on this model by permitting Fallen Hero roadside memorial signs for active duty members of the United States Armed Forces killed in action. Those two measures specified four such roadside memorial signs be erected.

House Bill 2981 directs Oregon Department of Transportation to erect and maintain a Fallen Hero roadside memorial sign on Oregon Route 7, near milepost 36 in memory of Specialist Anders.