

# Senate Bill 717

Sponsored by Senator STEINER HAYWARD; Representative HELM (at the request of Wendall and Dawn Pelham)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Transportation to erect and maintain Fallen Hero roadside memorial sign for John Pelham.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to Fallen Hero roadside memorial signs; amending ORS 366.931; and declaring an emer-  
3 gency.

4 Whereas Specialist John Alexander Pelham was born on November 9, 1991, in Beaverton,  
5 Oregon; and

6 Whereas Specialist John Pelham grew up in the Pacific Northwest; and

7 Whereas Specialist John Pelham graduated from Sunset High School, where he played on the  
8 baseball team; and

9 Whereas Specialist John Pelham joined the United States Army in July 2011 and completed  
10 basic combat training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; and

11 Whereas Specialist John Pelham's military education included the Advanced Individual Training  
12 to become a signals intelligence analyst, the Basic Airborne Course, the Combat Lifesaver Course  
13 and the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course; and

14 Whereas Specialist John Pelham's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the  
15 Purple Heart, the Meritorius Service Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Com-  
16 mendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the  
17 Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the  
18 Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal,  
19 the Combat Action Badge and the Parachutist Badge; and

20 Whereas Specialist John Pelham belonged to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Air-  
21 borne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and

22 Whereas Specialist John Pelham passed away on February 12, 2014, at the age of 22, from  
23 wounds received in an exchange of small-arms fire while serving his second tour in Afghanistan; and

24 Whereas Specialist John Pelham was loved by many, and nearly 1,000 people attended his fu-  
25 neral; and

26 Whereas Specialist John Pelham is remembered by his family and friends as being "bigger than  
27 death" and for his determination with his fellow soldiers to "go out with our guns blazing and boots  
28 on"; now, therefore,

29 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

30 **SECTION 1.** ORS 366.931 is amended to read:

31 366.931. (1) As used in this section, "Armed Forces of the United States" has the meaning given

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 that term in ORS 348.282.

2 (2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, to recognize and honor those who were killed in  
3 action or who died as a result of wounds received in action while serving in the Armed Forces of  
4 the United States, the Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain a Fallen Hero  
5 roadside memorial sign for:

- 6 (a) Eric McKinley, on Oregon Route 34 near milepost 50.
- 7 (b) Tyler Troyer, on Oregon Route 34 near milepost 4.
- 8 (c) Kevin Dewayne Davis, on Oregon Route 34 near milepost 15.
- 9 (d) Adam Buyes, on Oregon Route 22 near milepost 20.
- 10 (e) **John Pelham, on \_\_\_\_\_ near milepost \_\_\_\_\_.**

11 (3) The department may not erect a Fallen Hero roadside memorial sign until the department  
12 receives the payment of a fee. The department shall determine the amount of the fee by rule, except  
13 that the fee may not exceed the direct and indirect expenses associated with erecting, maintaining  
14 and removing a roadside memorial sign.

15 (4) The department shall deposit the fees that the department collects under this section into  
16 the Roadside Memorial Fund established under ORS 366.932.

17 (5) A public body, as defined in ORS 174.109, may not expend moneys for the purpose of paying  
18 the fee required under subsection (3) of this section.

19 (6) The department, by rule, shall establish the size, design and location of a roadside memorial  
20 sign erected under this section. The sign must include the name of the individual the sign is recog-  
21 nizing.

22 **SECTION 2. This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
23 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect**  
24 **on its passage.**

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