

**Testimony for Senate Concurrent Resolution 206 –  
By Stephen L. Bates, Boring, Oregon  
Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness – February 4, 2016**

Chair Boquist, Vice Chair Monnes-Anderson and committee members,

I am Steve Bates, a 38 year resident of Boring, Oregon.

I am here representing the Boring Community and as an Associate Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

We thank you for hearing this Resolution and I wish to acknowledge Senate President Courtney for allowing this Resolution to be introduced during this short session.

The Vietnam War is the war of my generation.  
Our Vietnam heroes did not get the recognition that they deserved.  
The Vietnam Veterans of America asked me to serve as an Associate Member on a Memorial Committee to honor the memory of the names on the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

Seeking to honor our fallen heroes from the Boring area, we found that:

The exceptional loss experienced by my Boring neighbor, George Wright, and his family, had been overlooked. Most everyone in Boring was unaware of these facts:

On May 21, 1967, Mr. George Wright lost his son and namesake to the Vietnam War.  
Marine Private George Nathan Wright.  
That day, the Wright family became a Gold Star Family.

Two years and ten days later, May 31, 1969, George Wright lost another son to the Vietnam War. Army Specialist Four James Alfred Wright.  
On that day, the Wright family became a Two Gold Star Family.

While there are many Two Gold Star Families, there are only 41 families throughout the United States that lost two sons to the Vietnam War. When we found out one of our neighbors had sustained such a tragic loss, not once, but twice; the community of Boring stood up and said we should honor this family for their extreme sacrifice.

Our neighbor, Mr. George Wright, is a 91 year old World War II Navy Veteran. The Vietnam Veterans of America have visited with him and he has given permission for us to honor his sons. We are seeking passage of this Concurrent Resolution so that we may approach ODOT and seek the placement of Vietnam Hero Highway signs in the memory of these two Boring heroes on Highway 26 as it passes through Boring.

For the purpose of honoring the service and sacrifice of the Wright brothers, we sincerely request that this Resolution be moved to the Senate floor with a Do Pass recommendation.