

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/23/16

Action: Be Adopted.

Meeting Dates: 02/23

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney

Prepared By: Dan Roper, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

In memoriam, Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Life and service of Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Erik Kesterson was born March 10, 1974, in San Jose, California. He graduated from Vernonia High School and joined the Marine Corps in 1992. He was a gunner on Hueys and Cobras, served as a UH-1 crew chief, and achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant in short order. On September 12, 2000, he was gunner and crew chief on a Huey that went down, and he pulled seven fellow Marines from the burning helicopter before it exploded. He left the Marines in 2001 and worked for a private aviation company in McMinnville, Oregon, but about ten months later, September 11th happened, and he volunteered again to serve his country, this time in the Army. He qualified for the Warrant Officer Flight Training Program and became a Black Hawk helicopter pilot for the 101st Airborne Division. He was deployed to Mosul, Iraq, with B Company, 9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, on November 7, 2003, and killed eight days later when his helicopter went down bringing a Stryker team in to support troops under fire. Among all the honors he received for his faithful service in both the Marines and the Army, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Air Medal. His family and friends knew: he was born to serve. House Concurrent Resolution 203 honors Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson.