

**Enrolled**  
**House Concurrent Resolution 203**

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Rules)

Whereas Army Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson was born on March 10, 1974, in San Jose, California, and was raised by M.J. and Clay Kesterson; and

Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson graduated from Vernonia High School in 1992 and joined the United States Marine Corps on October 19, 1992, serving as a UH-1 crew chief for 101 months and achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant, and also working as a gunner on Huey and Cobra helicopters; and

Whereas on September 12, 2000, a Huey helicopter on which Warrant Officer Kesterson was serving as crew chief and gunner crashed and burst into flames, and Warrant Officer Kesterson pulled seven of his fellow Marines out of the burning aircraft before it exploded; and

Whereas in 2001, Warrant Officer Kesterson left the Marine Corps and went to work for Evergreen International Aviation, Inc., in McMinnville; and

Whereas only 10 months after Warrant Officer Kesterson left the Marine Corps, the September 11 attacks occurred, and Warrant Officer Kesterson decided to join the United States Army to become a pilot of Black Hawk helicopters; and

Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson qualified for the Warrant Officer Flight Training Program and became a Black Hawk helicopter pilot for the 101st Airborne Division; and

Whereas in April 2002, Warrant Officer Kesterson completed Warrant Officer Candidate School, initial entry rotary-wing flight training and the UH-60 qualification course; and

Whereas on November 7, 2003, Warrant Officer Kesterson deployed to Mosul, Iraq, with B Company, 9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division; and

Whereas on November 15, 2003, Warrant Officer Kesterson was killed when his helicopter went down in Iraq while bringing in a Stryker team to support troops under fire; and

Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal and several other medals for his faithful duty while serving in the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps; and

Whereas those who knew Warrant Officer Kesterson knew that he was born to serve; and

Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson loved his country and never wanted to do anything other than to serve it, choosing not to have children because he knew his job was dangerous and he did not want his children to grow up without a father; and

Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson is survived by his parents, M.J. and Clay, and his birth mother, Delores Kesterson; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson for his service to his country.

Adopted by House February 12, 2016

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate February 26, 2016

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate