

# 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)

## 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**.

Recognizes and honors Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson (1974-2003) for his service to his country.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2       Whereas Army Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson was born on March 10, 1974, in San  
3 Jose, California, and was raised by M.J. and Clay Kesterson; and

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

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

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

13       Whereas only 10 months after Warrant Officer Kesterson left the Marine Corps, the September  
14 11 attacks occurred, and Warrant Officer Kesterson decided to join the United States Army to be-  
15 come a pilot of Black Hawk helicopters; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31       Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson is survived by his parents, M.J. and Clay, and his birth

**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 mother, Delores Kesterson; now, therefore,

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

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

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