

Committee on Memorials and Remembrance

"To Memorialize casualties of war and Remember the service of Military Veterans"

Stephen L. Bates, Chair
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Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR19-1) – Hearing Scheduled for April 6, 2017 Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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

For over twenty years, our nation was involved in a military conflict that eventually was known as the Vietnam War. During this involvement, over 58,000 American families became Vietnam War Gold Star Families. Of these families, there were 39 that lost two sons to this war. Four of these families were in Oregon. During the last Legislative Session, the Wright family of Boring was appropriately honored for the loss of their two sons in Vietnam.

Today, we wish to start the process to honor the Evans family of Klamath County with the -1 Amendment to SCR19. The Evans family lost two sons to the Vietnam War. The Evans family's story is interesting to say the least. James Evans married Juanita Molohon. Juanita had children from a previous marriage and James accepted them as his own; the family had four boys; Robert, Norman, David and John. James Evans was a World War II and Korean War Air Force Veteran. All four boys served in the United States Army. It must also be noted that his grandson served in the Oregon Army National Guard. This is a family that served its country well!

David Lynn Evans enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from High School in 1967. He achieved the rank of Specialist 4 and was a door gunner with the US Army's 191st Assault Helicopter Company when he died outright during a hostile engagement on October 24, 1968 at the age of 19.

Norman Francis Evans also enlisted in the Army. He had two sons. The second was born ten months after the death of his younger brother in Vietnam. Norman and his wife named their second son after Specialist 4 David Lynn Evans. Norman Evans did not have to go to Vietnam as his brother had served and died there. It is reported that Norman felt it was his duty and accepted his assignment to Vietnam. He died in an airplane crash that killed 16 people on November 24, 1970 at the age of 23. This was Norman's second tour in Vietnam and he was just three weeks away from coming home.

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Additional members: Tom Bennett, Gary Handy

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James and Juanita Evans raised a great family. They lost two of their boys to Vietnam. Unfortunately, they are now deceased. We wish to take this time to honor their contributions and their memory.

The one family survivor that we have located is the oldest son of Norman Evans, Jeff. Jeff Evans has a family of his own and resides in Nevada. His brother, who is the namesake of David Lynn Evans passed away in 2011. David Lynn Evans (1969-2011) served two tours in the Iraq War. He was injured during his second tour and his death was contributed to those injuries.

Jeff Evans has expressed his desire to be here today, but is unable to do so due to employment responsibilities.

We ask that this Resolution with the -1 amendment be passed to the Senate Floor with a Do Adopt recommendation. Let us honor the Evans family. This Resolution, when passed, will enable the process for signage and the dedication of a State Highway in Klamath County as a Fallen Hero Memorial Highway in memory of:

US Army SPC4 David Lynn Evans and US Army SPC6 Norman Francis Evans.

Two heroes that were brothers: they sacrificed their American Dream so that we could live ours.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Memorials and Remembrance,

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