

HCR 28 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: Bradley Volk, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes and honors First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkins (1986-2012) for his service to his country.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact

REVENUE: May have revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

United States Air Force First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkins was born on February 7, 1986 in Bend, Oregon, where he was raised and home schooled, graduating in 2005. He obtained his glider license at age 14, his pilot license at age 16, and graduated from the Air Force Academy in 2009. He was a combat systems officer assigned to the 34th Special Operations Squadron, 1st Special Operations Group, 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field, Florida. On his third deployment, he was one of four crew members serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on a special forces U-28A aircraft tasked to aid in the detection and disruption of violent extremist organizations in the Horn of Africa. He and his fellow crew members died returning from a mission on February 18, 2012, when their aircraft was involved in an accident near Camp Lemonnier, a United States Naval Expeditionary Base situated at Djibouti, home to the Combined Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) of the U.S. Africa Command (USAAFRICOM). At the time of his death, First Lieutenant Wilkins had flown over 400 combat hours. He was talented, brave, reliable, intelligent, extremely outgoing and friendly. He loved his country and loved flying. He wanted to defend those who could not defend themselves and is remembered as an extraordinary man who lived life to the fullest.

House Concurrent Resolution 28 recognizes and honors First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkins, and his family, for their sacrifice to the United States.