

# Committee on Memorials and Remembrance

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

**Stephen L. Bates, Chair**  
**P O Box 339**  
**Boring, Oregon 97009**  
**(503) 663-6271**

**Jaycee Newman, Secretary**

## Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution (HCR 30) – Hearing Scheduled for April 11, 2017 House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Chair Evans, Vice-Chair Boone, Vice-Chair Esquivel and committee members:

The Committee on Memorials and Remembrance identified four families in Oregon that lost two sons to the Vietnam War. It is terrible to lose a child, but to lose two is exceptional. 39 families in the United States share this experience. Our committee made a commitment to honor the four Oregon families that sacrificed so much: The Wright family of Boring, The Rowden Family of Jackson County, The Evans Family of Klamath County and today, we wish to honor the Johnson family.

Louis Johnson married Helen Gordon. They had four children; Charles, Kalista, Clifford and Gordon. Research on this family has been difficult.

We have identified that Charles attended Toledo High School. Charles Eugene Johnson enlisted in the Navy in December of 1961 at the age of 17. He was honorably discharged in 1966, only to re-enlist in 1967. Less than three months after his re-enlistment, he was in Vietnam. He was a Medic assigned to the 7<sup>th</sup> Marines and was killed outright in a hostile engagement on February 8, 1968 at the age of 23.

At the time of Charles' death, we have been able to identify that his parents lived in Portland. We have not been able to locate any information on the father, Louis A. Johnson.

Clifford Thomas Johnson was drafted into the Army. He was an Infantryman, but achieved the rank of Sergeant. He was involved in a hostile engagement and sustained wounds on December 7, 1970. Sergeant Thomas died from those wounds almost three weeks later on December 26, 1970 at the age of 21.

Both of the Johnson Brothers were single at the time of death. They had no dependents. Their sister, Kalista, married Stephen Elia and they had a daughter. Stephen, Kalista and their daughter, Shannon are deceased. Their brother, Gordon is also deceased. Their mother, Helen died in 2005. This branch of the Johnson family tree is dead. There are no surviving relatives that we can find.

**Ron Morgan**  
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President, Oregon  
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**Steve Wiley**  
Oregon State Head  
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Delegate, Oregon  
State Council  
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**Val Shaull**  
Commander,  
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Chapter No. 1  
Past Commander,  
VFW Post 180

**Bert Key**  
Commander,  
VFW Post 4273

Additional members: Tom Bennett, Gary Handy

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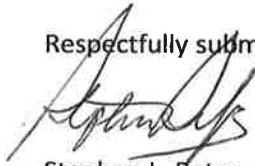
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As there are no surviving family members to remember and honor the Johnson Brothers, it is imperative that we honor and remember the sacrifice of this family.

We ask that this Resolution be passed to the House Floor with a Do Adopt recommendation so that we can honor the Johnson family. This Resolution, when passed, will enable the process for signage and the dedication of a State Highway in Lincoln County as a Fallen Hero Memorial Highway in memory of: Navy Hospitalman Charles Eugene Johnson and Army Sergeant Clifford Thomas Johnson.

Two heroes that were brothers: Brothers that died in Vietnam:  
They sacrificed their American Dream so that we could live ours.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen L. Bates, Chair

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