



Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund

Dedicated to the wellness and safety of Oregon's first responders and their families

HCR 4 – Deputy Moran and HCR 5 Deputy Rice
For Senate Rules Committee hearing on April 24, 2017

Chair Burdick

My name is Mary Nunnenkamp. I am the Chair of the Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund. This board consists of Malheur County Sheriff Brian Wolfe, representing the Oregon State Sheriff's Association, Retired Hubbard Police Chief David Dryden, representing Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, Linn County Sheriff's Office Senior Deputy Chris Houdek, representing the Oregon Peace Officers Association and Mr. Jim Whitehead, parent survivor of Multnomah County Sheriff's Reserve Mark Whitehead and director of the Oregon Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors. I am also a proud retiree of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I am honored to represent the line of duty death survivors who are seeking to have their loved one remembered through the Oregon Fallen Officer Memorial Highway Sign program established through the passage of HB3039 in 2011. I've had the honor of knowing Mrs. Rita Rice Bocholz for the past 8 years, but have really connected with her during this past year as we have been working on these signs since last May.

She asked that I share the following:

From Rita (Moran-Rice) Bolchoz on behalf of the Moran and Rice Families

For:

Deputy Alice M. Moran EOW 11/17/1971

Deputy Thomas E. Rice EOW 5/23/2017

Thank you for your time and consideration in the matter of the approval of the Memorial Highway marker signs. Our family appreciates the honor and remembrances. These signs are such an honor. Our loved ones sacrifice never forgotten.

I had just turned 14 when my Mother, Alice Moran was called on by the Josephine County Sheriff's office to fill in as Matron/Deputy to escort a female juvenile from Hillcrest Facility to bring to a court trial to testify. My brothers, Mike 16, Mark 15, and sister Jolene, 9 and I had gone to school already and did not know she would be working that day. Those were our last moments with her.

She was called, and did not hesitate to go.

For many years, I believed her to be forgotten. That it did not matter in the history of our community except to her family and a community of friends.

Years later, my husband Thomas Rice, became a Josephine County Sheriff Reserve Officer. Encouraged by friends to apply to be a full time Deputy for Josephine County, he was hired.

During his career, Tom became a part of the Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremonies dedicating time to honoring a mother-in-law he had never met. He did this for me and my family so we would know Mom was not forgotten.

Years into his service for Josephine County Sheriff's Office, and the Oregon State Marine Board, he was called upon to lead in a search for a missing woman on the Rogue River. He did not hesitate and left that morning determined to find the missing woman to give her family some peace and comfort. I was, in this case, able to spend time with him that morning, and to tell him to be safe, and tell him that I love him, and then we both left for work. He was committed to what he was to do that day.

Many will never know the stories, the history, the loss to the families that were left behind those days and all the days that will follow in our lives.

But if someone, anyone, pauses as they pass the Memorial Highway signs and wonders about what our officers are willing to dedicate their lives for, every time they are called on, that will be a great service. Many will not pause, or think past the moment. But if some do, they may perhaps send up a prayer for the loss and the sacrifice of young lives that were freely given in dedication and caring. Or perhaps think beyond that to thanking a current law enforcement officer the next time they see one. Now, the signs will mean a daily tribute to them!

For the families, the dedication to our loved ones is appreciated and we know these signs are an honor daily as they are seen, and the honor will continue on for generations in our community and Oregon's history. Our loved ones sacrifice never forgotten. Current Law Enforcement Officers not forgotten as well, these will help serve as a reminder of the willingness of all of our officers to do what must be done every day.

Thank you
The Moran-Rice Families.

Through my research, Rita is the only survivor in our Country to have buried her mother and her husband due to a law enforcement line of duty death.

When the law enforcement community experiences a line of duty death, we make a promise that is very important to us. We promise to never forget. We promise to support our survivors for as long as they need us. These signs represent one more way for us to keep that promise.

I'm often asked about how the decision is made for the final placement of the sign. That very personal decision is made by the family within the rules and regulations of the Oregon Department of Transportation. Rita and her family are looking at two locations in Grant Pass overlooking the Rogue River as that brings back many happy memories for them.

The Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund is proud to purchase these signs to eliminate any expense to the state, the law enforcement agency, or the family.

I urge a yes vote on HCR 4 and HCR5. I am happy to answer any questions.

Mary Nunnenkamp, Chair - Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund