

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 HCR 3 – Hearing Scheduled for May 2, 2017

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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

Over 58,000 American families became Vietnam War Gold Star Families. Of these families, there were 39 families that lost two sons to the Vietnam War and are Two Gold Star Families. Four of these Two Gold Star Families were in Oregon. The first Oregon Vietnam Two Gold Star Family was the Rowden family of Jackson County. On February 10, 1968, the day their second son perished in Vietnam, they became a Two Gold Star Family.

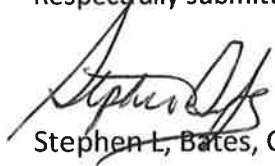
Within weeks of the death of their second son, their third son received a draft notice. According to newspaper articles, the Draft Board was eventually convinced to rescind that notice. It has been said that the offices of Governor Tom McCall and Senator Wayne Morse were involved.

It is important to note that Two Gold Star mother, Grace Rowden, was quoted as saying:
"I feel we have donated enough to the Vietnam cause".

Unfortunately, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Rowden are deceased, in addition to their third son, Douglas Rowden. A fourth son survives. His name is Malcolm Rowden and he resides in the Central Point area.

We ask that this Resolution be passed to the Senate Floor with a Do Adopt recommendation so that we can honor the Rowden family. This Resolution, when passed, will enable the process for signage and the dedication of a State Highway in Jackson County as a Fallen Hero Memorial Highway in memory of: Marine Private James Herbert Rowden and Marine Private First Class John Wayne Rowden. 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,



Stephen L. Bates, Chair

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Additional members: Tom Bennett, Gary Handy, Ron Ruedi