

HCR 28 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

First Lieutenant Wilkins was born in Bend on February 7, 1986, 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 with aiding 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 of the U.S. Africa Command. 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 honors First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkins.