

Bend Heroes Foundation
1900 NE 3rd St., Ste 106 #205
Bend, OR 97701

May 15, 2017

Senator Brian Boquist
Chair, Oregon Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Dear Chair Boquist and Committee Members.

I will not be able to deliver my testimony in person at your May 16 Public Hearing on HCR 26 (PFC Thomas L. Tucker), HCR 27 (CPL Jessica A. Ellis), HCR 28 (1st LT Justin J. Wilkens) and HCR 29 (LCPL Randy Lee Newman).

I know the parents of these four young fallen veterans from having introduced them to the Oregon Fallen Hero Memorial Highway sign program, helping them draft their HCRs, displaying their sons' and daughter's personalized flags with 200 other veterans flags in Bend eight times annually, placing Wreaths Across America wreaths on their graves (CPL Ellis, LT. Wilkens) at Arlington National Cemetery and creating memorials at their high school (LCPL Newman) and Central Oregon Community College (CPL Ellis). LCPL Newman, CPL Ellis, Lt. Wilkens are also honored with their names along with 109 other names of Bend' fallen veterans (WWI to present) engraved on a large granite monument at Bend Heroes Memorial created by Bend Heroes Foundation.

It is a great privilege for all of us to honor our young veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice in combat and their families. These veterans will always be remembered and honored in Central Oregon especially with the new Fallen Hero Memorial Highway signs near their homes.

I have submitted this testimony for the record and requested members of the Central Oregon delegation to read this testimony at your May 16 Public Hearing.

I urge the Committee to vote unanimously in favor of HCR 26, HCR 27, HCR 28 and HCR 29.

Thank you for this opportunity to honor fallen veterans.

Respectfully,



Dick Tobiason
LTC US Army, Retired
Chairman

Cc: Parents