

Statement of:
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May 16, 2017

Senator Boquist, members of the committee,

My name is Mat Millenbach and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am here to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution 27 which recognizes and honors Corporal Jessica Ellis for her service to our country. I am an Army veteran who served in Germany and in South Vietnam in the mid-1960's.

I have known Corporal Ellis' Mom and Dad for years and wish to state they are the kind of American family we should be happy to have as neighbors and as residents of our state. Steve and Linda have spent their entire lives serving our country and the communities they have lived in and have raised their children to be hard working, productive citizens of our country. They are exactly the kind of family you would expect to have a daughter like Jessica, a young woman with a sense of adventure, a willingness to serve her country, and the courage to undertake a dangerous mission in order to make sure her fellow soldiers did not have go on a combat patrol without their medic.

After my discharge from the Army in 1968, I came to learn how important it is for veterans and their families, particularly those who have lost a friend or loved one, to be cared for and embraced by their friends, local communities, and Nation. I think this resolution is an important step in that direction — it says that we care about the sacrifice that Jessica and her family have made for our Nation and are proud to have them as our neighbors. I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of this resolution.

I would like to thank the resolution sponsors and all of you for your support and for your service to our State. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.