

## **Newell Bill**

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Veterans House Committee Members:

We, the parents of 1st Lt. Justin James Wilkens, are unable to be present today for the hearing on HCR 28 and have therefore requested that our statement be read into the record for today's hearing.

We are very pleased that the Oregon legislature has adopted the Fallen Heroes Memorial Highway Sign program to honor fallen service members. We think that the sign program is a way to help families of fallen service members feel the sacrifice of their loved one is valued and a reminder to all who see the signs of the cost of our freedoms.

Justin was born and raised in Bend, Oregon living in Bend until leaving to attend the Air Force Academy in 2005. If approved by ODOT the spot we have chosen for his sign is a bit over one mile from where he was born, less than a mile from where he is buried and approximately one mile from where we have had an office for 35 years.

HCR 28 contains the information that we feel justifies the passage of this resolution.

We very much appreciate and encourage the Oregon legislature's continued support of the Fallen Heroes Memorial Highway Sign program throughout Oregon.

We would like to thank the committee for their consideration and support of HCR 28.

Respectfully,

Jim and Sharon Wilkens