

Committee on Memorials and Remembrance

"To Memorialize casualties of war and Remember the service of Military Veterans"

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Testimony on House Concurrent Resolution (HCR 3) – Hearing Scheduled for February 2, 2017 House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Chair Evans, Vice-Chair Boone, Vice-Chair Esquivel and committee members:

For over twenty years, our nation was involved in a military conflict that eventually was known as the Vietnam War. During this involvement, over 58,000 American families became Vietnam War Gold Star Families. Of these families, there were 39 families that lost two sons to this war. Four of these families were in Oregon. During the last Legislative Session, the Wright family of Boring was appropriately honored for the loss of their two sons in Vietnam.

Today, we wish to start the process to honor the Rowden family of Jackson County. The Rowden family's story is unique. 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 Morris were involved.

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 are not certain as to their whereabouts, but, the oldest son, James Rowden was married with two children at the time of his death. With this said, we hope to see the remaining family honored for the extreme and ultimate sacrifice of Marine Private James Herbert Rowden and Marine Private First Class John Wayne Rowden.

We ask that this Resolution be passed to the House 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 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,

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