

Good afternoon,

Madame Chair and Committee members

My name is John Kilcullen. I am the father of Chris Kilcullen. Chris was a Eugene Police officer who was killed in the line of duty on April 22, 2011. I am also a former Lane County Deputy Sheriff. It is in that role that I am asking that this body make it possible for road signs to be erected that honor the ultimate sacrifice made by three Lane County Deputy Sheriff's deputies: Robert Milton Riley, Carlton Edmund Smith, and Roy Hugo Dirks.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 10

Robert Riley was born June 12, 1922. He grew up and attended high school in the small town of Elkton, Douglas County, Oregon. He served in World War II as a member of Merrill's Marauders in Burma and India. After returning from the war, Deputy Riley joined the Eugene Police Department as a reserve officer where he attained the rank of lieutenant. He later joined the Lane County Sheriff's Office on March 20, 1958, as a Special Deputy. On the morning of August 17, 1958, Deputy Riley was riding in a patrol car with a Springfield Police officer. The officers had responded to a burglary alarm. As they cleared that call a suspect was seen driving in an erratic manner. They gave chase. Unfortunately, Deputy Riley was killed when the patrol car in which he was a passenger was struck by the other vehicle and went out of control.

Deputy Riley was married to Venola who was a matron with the Sheriff's Office. They had a son, Stephen, who turned seven on the day his father was killed. Stephen later became a police officer in Eugene and is presently the Police Chief of the Latgawa Tribal Police. Deputy Riley came from a law enforcement family. In addition to his son and wife, five other relatives have served our country in uniform.

Deputy Riley had many interests and achievements. He was a self taught electrician and inventor. His inventions included illuminated fishing lures, articulated screwdrivers, and duck decoys. He enjoyed model rail roading. He was active in his community volunteering as a deacon and teacher at his church. Deputy Riley was close to his family and was greatly missed.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 9

Madame Chair and Committee Members

Carlton Smith was another Oregonian who chose to serve his community as a law enforcement officer. Deputy Smith was born March 3, 1932, in Brookings, Curry County, Oregon. He and his brother Robert grew up around family. Deputy Smith graduated from Reedsport high school in 1950. He married Margaret and became a step-father to Terry. He and Margaret had three sons: Randy, Denny, and Chris.

Deputy Smith began his law enforcement career in 1957. He left that department in 1959. He returned to law enforcement on July 6, 1965. That evening Deputy Smith was shot and killed by two convicted felons after stopping their vehicle for speeding near the Valley River Center in Eugene. His death occurred just one hour before his first shift was to end.

Deputy Smith spent as much time as possible with his family. He also enjoyed sport fishing and scuba diving. In addition, he was able to find time to be a baseball coach and high school football referee. Deputy Smith's passion for law enforcement was passed on to two of his sons. Denny joined the Eugene Police Department. Randy worked for the Junction City Police Department, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, and Eugene Police Department. He also worked for the Lane County Sheriff's Office where he attained the rank of Captain and recently retired as commander of the Lane County Jail.

Deputy Smith left behind a loving family and many friends who still miss him.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 8

Madame Chair and Committee Members

The last person I want to say some words about is Roy Dirks. Roy was my friend and someone I worked with as detectives with the Lane County Sheriff's Office. I can honestly say that he was one of the best detectives the Sheriff's Office ever had.

Roy was born in Roseburg on November 9, 1938. He had four siblings, one of whom was killed in the Korean War. Roy graduated from Reedsport High School in 1954 where he was a cheerleader, athlete, member of the Lucky Seven Club, and mentor to fellow students. Roy enlisted in the Army and served for 1955 to 1957 where he was a boxer and military police officer.

Deputy Dirks law enforcement career began in 1958 with the Eugene Police Department. In 1965 Deputy Dirks joined the Lane County Sheriff's Office where he was assigned as a resident deputy in Cottage Grove. He transferred to detectives in 1967 and was assigned to the narcotics team. He also worked major crimes. One case in particular stands out. Detective Dirks was investigating a murder. He met a witness at a local tavern. The witness agreed to provide information if Detective Dirks could beat

him at pool. Dirks won the game and solved the case. Detective Dirks was a hard working officer who did his job with compassion, dedication, and diligence.

On April 11, 1975, Detective Dirks alone while investigating a matter in the McKenzie River area. He came upon a well known cult called Members of the Valley of Life. Members of the Cult shot and killed Detective Dirks.

Detective Dirks loved fishing, telling jokes, riding motorcycles, golfing, singing, dancing, and playing the guitar. And, as mentioned above, he was a great pool player.

At the time of his death Detective Dirks was attending Lane Community College studying criminal justice. He had ambitions of attending law school. He would be proud to know that one of his daughters, Denise, achieved that goal and is now an attorney.

Detective Dirks left behind a large family that included six daughters and their mothers, brothers, aunts, uncles, and innumerable friends and co-workers. He is greatly missed by his family and many friends.

I can tell you from personal knowledge that losing a loved one in the line of duty is devastating. I also know how rewarding it is to have a road sign erected that publically recognizes the loss the family, friends, co-workers, and community experienced. On behalf of their family, friends and co-workers I ask this body to recognize and honor Deputy Riley, Deputy Smith, and Deputy Dirks, for their service to the people of this state.