

SCR 13 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser

Senate Committee On Rules

Action Date: 04/03/17
Action: Be adopted.
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Roblan
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Cherie Stone, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes Jason Westlund for exemplary service in assisting accident victim.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Emergency preparedness
- Riley Russell's road to recovery
- Jason Westlund's exemplary conduct and service

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

On August 2, 2016, Jason Westlund of Salem, Oregon, who served as a United States Army medic in Iraq, was the first person to arrive on the scene of a head-on vehicle collision on Highway 20. At the scene, Jason Westlund discovered Riley Russell pinned between the steering wheel, roof and front column of his truck. As Mr. Westlund assessed the condition of Mr. Russell, the vehicle caught fire with Mr. Russell unable to escape. Mr. Westlund remained by Mr. Russell's side, seeking the help of bystanders, who provided him with a fire extinguisher to put out the flames coming from the truck's hood. Mr. Westlund was then able to communicate Mr. Russell's condition to emergency medical personnel. Riley Russell was evacuated from the scene by emergency medical technicians and Jason Westlund was treated for shock and injuries sustained while aiding Mr. Russell. Although he required several surgeries after the incident, Riley Russell survived and credits Jason Westlund with saving his life. While visiting Riley Russell in the hospital, Jason Westlund presented Mr. Russell with his flight patch from his tour in Iraq.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 13 recognizes Jason Westlund for his exemplary service to his nation, state and community and thanks Mr. Westlund for the example of citizenship he has set for all Oregonians. Lastly, SCR 13 extends the Legislative Assembly's best wishes to Riley Russell for his continued recovery.