

**Enrolled**  
**House Concurrent Resolution 5**

Sponsored by Representative WILSON; Representative ESQUIVEL (Pre-session filed.)

Whereas Deputy Thomas Ernest Rice was born on March 14, 1956, in Grants Pass, Oregon, to I. Pearl Rice-Smalley and R. Wallace Rice and grew up surrounded by family, including his brother, Richard, and sister, Barbara, and aunts, uncles and cousins; and

Whereas in his junior year of high school, Deputy Rice began working for Josephine Growers Co-Op, where he worked for the next 18 years while raising his family; and

Whereas Deputy Rice graduated in 1974 from Grants Pass High School; and

Whereas Deputy Rice married his high school sweetheart, Rita Moran, in 1976, and together they had a son, Daniel, and daughter, Erin; and

Whereas Deputy Rice volunteered with the Josephine County Sheriff's Office as a reserve officer until he was hired as a full-time officer in 1992; and

Whereas Deputy Rice earned the Star of Life Award in 2000 for his efforts in a river rescue; and

Whereas Deputy Rice coordinated local law enforcement memorial ceremonies honoring fallen officers; and

Whereas Deputy Rice held a captain's license issued by the United States Coast Guard; and

Whereas Deputy Rice was killed on May 23, 2002, in a helicopter accident while conducting a search and rescue mission for an elderly woman believed to have drowned in the Rogue River; and

Whereas Deputy Rice's mother-in-law, Josephine County Deputy Alice Moran, was killed in an on-duty airplane accident on November 17, 1971; and

Whereas Deputy Rice enjoyed reading, boating and working on his Dodge pickup; and

Whereas Deputy Rice valued his time spent attending church; and

Whereas Deputy Rice worked nights and weekends driving excursion boats; and

Whereas Deputy Rice was proud and honored to serve the Josephine County community that his family had been a key part of for several generations and that was so important in forming who he became in life; and

Whereas Deputy Rice was raised on the Rogue River, loved and respected the river, was on the river at every opportunity and gave his life on the river that he loved so much; and

Whereas Deputy Rice loved to be with his family and friends; and

Whereas Deputy Rice did an important job and did it with passion, dedication and diligence; and

Whereas Deputy Rice had many friends and is greatly missed; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Deputy Thomas Ernest Rice for his service to this state.

Adopted by House March 27, 2017

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate April 27, 2017

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate