

Enrolled
Senate Concurrent Resolution 13

Sponsored by Senator GELSNER

Whereas Jason Westlund of Salem, Oregon, served as a United States Army medic in Iraq; and
Whereas on August 2, 2016, Jason Westlund was the first person to arrive on the scene of a head-on collision that took place west of Philomath, Oregon, on Highway 20; and

Whereas Jason Westlund found 17-year-old Riley Russell pinned between the steering wheel, roof and front column of his truck; and

Whereas Jason Westlund engaged the severely injured Riley Russell in a conversation in order to assess his condition; and

Whereas while Jason Westlund spoke with the trapped teenager, the truck caught fire; and

Whereas Jason Westlund refused to leave Riley Russell and instead stayed by the burning truck, holding the teenager's hand while calling out to fleeing bystanders for a fire extinguisher; and

Whereas an elderly bystander brought a fire extinguisher to Jason Westlund so that he could put out the fire under the truck's hood; and

Whereas Riley Russell became unresponsive, and Jason Westlund communicated the teenager's dire condition to emergency medical services via telephone and requested a helicopter; and

Whereas Jason Westlund continued to hold onto the teenager's hand until emergency medical technicians arrived, stabilized Riley Russell and evacuated him to the hospital by helicopter; and

Whereas emergency medical technicians then treated Jason Westlund for shock and injuries sustained while assisting the teenager; and

Whereas though needing multiple surgeries, Riley Russell survived and credited Jason Westlund with saving his life; and

Whereas Jason Westlund visited Riley Russell in the hospital and presented his flight patch from his tour in Iraq to the teenager; and

Whereas Jason Westlund demonstrated the hallmarks of courage, preparedness, selflessness and generosity in his efforts to comfort and rescue a 17-year-old youth; 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 Jason Westlund for his exemplary service to his nation, state and community and thank him for the example of citizenship that he set for all Oregonians; and be it further

Resolved, That we extend to Riley Russell our best wishes for his continued recovery.

Adopted by Senate April 11, 2017

Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House May 24, 2017

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House