



Andy OLSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 15

February 5, 2018

Representative Jennifer Williamson
Chair of the House Committee on Rules
Salem, OR 97301



Chair Williamson and Committee Member

Re: HCR 207 Trooper Ralph D. Bates

Ralph D. Bates was born in Long Beach, California to Albert B. and Peggy M. Bates on September 26, 1938. He graduated from Medford High school in 1956 and served for four years in the United States Navy from 1956 to 1959. He worked in a lumber mill in Medford before joining the Oregon State Police.

Ralph became a member of the Oregon State Police on May 1, 1963. After attending recruit school, he was assigned to the Arlington office in the Traffic Division.

Trooper Bates, had celebrated his 24th birthday just over a month before the evening of Thursday, November 8, 1963. Shortly before 7:00 PM on the 8th Trooper Bates pulled over a vehicle on Highway 30 for a traffic violation. As he approached the driver, the driver pointed a gun and fired it at the officer hitting him in the chest. The driver then fled the scene.

A passing motorist stopped to assist, finding Trooper Bates lying on the pavement next to his patrol car. The motorist used the patrol car's radio to call in the incident. Investigators discovered that Bates had written down the license plate number of the vehicle...officers throughout the region were alerted. About 3 ½ hours later two officers stopped the suspect near Condon. When they approached the car Edward W. Sheckler, the 27 year-old driver, went for a .22 caliber weapon on the seat next to him. He did not fire on the officers and was taken into custody. He was subsequently lodged in the Gilliam County jail in Condon. According to the Pendleton East Oregonian, Sheckler was a former mental patient at the Salem and Pendleton mental hospitals. The gun was a .22 caliber rifle that had been sawed off to about 8 inches. Sheckler was later committed to the State Mental Hospital and died there May 2, 1964.

Trooper Bates was not married. He was survived by his parents, two brothers and a sister, and several nieces and nephews.

I urge your support to move this HCR to the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Olson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Andy Olson