

SCR 204 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Placeholder to honor fallen service members.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-1 amendment] Sean Patrick Fennerty

[-2 amendment] Jon Shelby Gibson

BACKGROUND:

Sergeant Sean Patrick Fennerty was born on July 2, 1981, in San Diego, California, while his father was on active duty in the United States Navy. He spent part of his childhood in Tucson, Arizona and part in Portland Oregon. He graduated from Jesuit High School and went on to Oregon State University, where he majored in history, was a supervisor in the intramural sports program, and was a member of the Sigma Pi fraternity. He joined the Army in 2004 and deployed to Iraq with the 509th Infantry (Airborne), 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. He was killed on January 20, 2007, in Anbar Province, while riding in a military vehicle that was struck by a roadside explosive device. He posthumously received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Sergeant Fennerty enjoyed skiing, fishing, reading and spending time with friends and family. He loved children, volunteered with the Police Activities League in Portland, and hoped to become a high school history teacher after his military service. He was a lifelong fan of the San Diego Padres, San Diego Chargers, University of Arizona athletics, especially the basketball team, and Oregon State University athletics, especially the football team. (He ended every electronic message from Iraq with 'Go Beavers!') He was known for his fierce loyalty and pride in his country, his fellow soldiers, the schools he attended, his friends and family, his Irish heritage and his Catholic faith. He will be remembered for his hearty laugh, big bear hugs and fantastic grin.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan Shelby Gibson was born on February 15, 1981, in Fairbanks, Alaska, and lived in many places due to his father's military career, including Alaska, Kentucky and Germany. He loved baseball and played on his school teams and graduated from Central Hardin High School in Kentucky in 1999. He visited Oregon many times while growing up, staying on his grandparents' farm in Aurora, and moved there after graduation. He enlisted in the Navy in 1999 and spent the following nine years at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, California, where he served as a rescue swimmer, air warfare specialist, and helicopter crew chief completing two sea deployments, and serving primarily in the Middle East. In 2008, CW3 Gibson applied to flight school in Pensacola,

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Florida, which he attended from 2009 to 2011. He returned to San Diego as a pilot, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron SIX, nicknamed the 'Screamin' Indians. In February 2013, CW3 Gibson deployed with his squadron to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and was killed on September 22, 2013, when his helicopter crashed trying to land aboard the USS *William P. Lawrence* in heavy seas. In addition to becoming a pilot, he completed his college degree while serving in the Navy. He had hoped to become a flight instructor, and then an aeronautical engineer after retiring from the Navy.

CW3 Gibson was a proud naval aviator who earned numerous achievement and commendation medals and awards during his exemplary career. He enjoyed surfing, golfing, mountain biking, motorcycles and playing with his children. He was known for his strong sense of duty and as a kind, loving and generous man who was devoted to his family.