



Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund

Dedicated to the wellness and safety of Oregon's first responders and their families

HCR 204 Deputy Gil Datan

For Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness on February 26, 2018

Chair Boquist and Committee Members

My name is Erin Edelen Kutter. I have been given the honor of leading the Oregon Fallen Officer Memorial Highway Sign program through the Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund. The board of the Fallen Officer Memorial Fund consists of Mary Nunnenkamp, who is the current Chairperson, Malheur County Sheriff Brian Wolfe, representing the Oregon State Sheriff's Association, Retired Hubbard Police Chief David Dryden, representing Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, Linn County Sheriff's Office Senior Deputy Chris Houdek, representing the Oregon Peace Officers Association and Mr. Jim Whitehead, parent survivor of Multnomah County Sheriff's Reserve Mark Whitehead and director of the Oregon Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors. In addition to my work with the Fallen Officer Memorial Fund, I am also the proud wife of Clackamas County Deputy, Jeff Kutter, as well as a board member of the Clackamas County Peace Officers' Benevolent Foundation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you in favor of HCR 204. The Oregon Fallen Officer Memorial Highway Sign program has created a meaningful way for fallen officers to be remembered as well as continue to show support for the family that was left behind. I have had the great pleasure of getting to know the Datan family and it is my honor to represent them as we seek to have their loved one remembered through the erection of a memorial highway sign. These highway memorial signs are incredibly important to the survivors of officers killed in the line of duty.

When an officer is killed in the line of duty, it is not felt by just their family and agency, it is felt by all of us who are part of the law enforcement community. It is in these times of grief and pain that we in the law enforcement community promise to never forget and it is a promise that we refuse to break. The highway memorial signs are just one more way in which we can remember and honor the life that was lost as well as the family and legacy that was left behind. It was the officer's calling to serve; it is an honor for us to remember.

The Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund is proud to purchase the sign honoring Coos County Deputy Gil Datan to eliminate any expense to the state, the law enforcement agency, or the family.

I hope that you will refer HCR 204 to the Senate floor for consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Erin Edelen Kutter – Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund's Highway Memorial program