

SCR 204 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: Sione Filimoehala, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes and honors Sergeant Sean Patrick Fennerty and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan Shelby Gibson for their service to their country.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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. The Fennerty family moved to Portland, Oregon, where Sergeant Fennerty attended St. Thomas More Catholic School for eighth grade and graduated from Jesuit High School in 1999. In 2004, Sergeant Fennerty graduated from 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. Sergeant Fennerty was a fan of Oregon State University athletics, especially the football team, and he ended every electronic mail message from Iraq with “Go Beavers!” Sergeant Fennerty joined the United States Army in 2004 and, although he was steered toward Officer Candidate School, he chose to become an enlisted infantry soldier. Sergeant Fennerty was deployed to Iraq with the 509th Infantry (Airborne), 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. Sergeant Fennerty was killed on January 20, 2007, in Anbar Province, while riding in a military vehicle that was struck by a roadside explosive device. Sergeant Fennerty was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Sergeant Fennerty 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. Sergeant Fennerty loved children and volunteered with the Police Activities League in Portland. Sergeant Fennerty enjoyed skiing, fishing, reading and spending time with friends and family, and had hoped to become a high school history teacher after his military service. Sergeant Fennerty will be remembered for his hearty laugh, huge bear hugs and fantastic grin. Sergeant Fennerty is survived by his parents, Dr. M. Brian and Maureen Fennerty, and siblings, Kelly, Colleen and Conor Fennerty.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan Shelby Gibson was born on February 15, 1981, in Fairbanks, Alaska. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson lived in many places due to his father’s military career, including Alaska, Kentucky and Germany. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson loved baseball and played on his school teams. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson graduated from Central Hardin High School in Kentucky in 1999. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson enlisted in the United States 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, an air warfare specialist, and served as a helicopter crew chief. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson completed two sea deployments, serving primarily in the Middle East. In 2011, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson returned to San Diego as a pilot and was assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron SIX, nicknamed the “Screamin’ Indians”. In February 2013, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson and his squadron were deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson was killed on September 22, 2013, when his helicopter crashed while trying to land aboard the USS William P. Lawrence in heavy seas. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson was a proud naval aviator who earned numerous achievement and commendation medals and

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awards during his exemplary career. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson completed a college degree while serving in the Navy, had hoped to become a flight instructor in the Navy , and to become an aeronautical engineer after his retirement from the Navy. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson enjoyed surfing, golfing, mountain biking, motorcycles and playing with his children. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson was known for his strong sense of duty and as a kind, loving and generous man who was devoted to his family. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gibson was survived by his wife, Christina Gibson, children, Makaylin and Alexander Gibson, father and stepmother, Scott and Kelly Gibson, mother and stepfather, Jo Ann and Mike Lake, and brother, Sergeant First Class James Gibson.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 204-A acknowledges the service and sacrifice of Sergeant Sean Fennerty and CW3 Jon Gibson, and of their families.