

House Concurrent Resolution 202

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Rules for Representative Andy Olson)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Recognizes and honors First Lieutenant Frederick E. Pokorney, Jr., for his service to his country.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas First Lieutenant Frederick E. Pokorney, Jr., was born in Oakland, California, on Au-
3 gust 20, 1971; and

4 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney excelled in football and basketball before graduating from
5 Tonopah High School in Nevada in 1989; and

6 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney enrolled at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, on a
7 football scholarship before an ankle injury ended his football career and led him to find his passion
8 for the United States Marine Corps; and

9 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1993 and finished at the top
10 of his boot camp class; and

11 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney, while stationed at Naval Submarine Base Bangor, met his
12 future wife, who encouraged his application to the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Pro-
13 gram (MECEP), which provides a pathway for outstanding Marine Corps enlisted personnel to be-
14 come commissioned officers; and

15 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney was accepted into MECEP and enrolled at Oregon State
16 University, where he studied political science and history and fell in love with Oregon, which he
17 came to consider his home; and

18 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney visited Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day in
19 2000 and, after watching the President of the United States lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Un-
20 known Soldier, said to his family, "Please bury me here should anything happen to me, as I cannot
21 think of a greater honor than to be buried in these sacred grounds"; and

22 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney was commissioned a second lieutenant in 2001 and deployed
23 to Iraq in 2003 with the 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, serving as an artillery forward ob-
24 server; and

25 Whereas on March 23, 2003, in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah, Iraq, First Lieutenant Pokorney's
26 unit was ambushed, but despite heavy and sustained enemy fire, he showed great courage in expertly
27 directing and coordinating artillery fire from his exposed position before being mortally wounded;
28 and

29 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney died two years to the day after he was commissioned a
30 Marine Corps officer and was awarded a posthumous Silver Star for his "conspicuous gallantry and
31 intrepidity in action against the enemy" and his display of "courage under fire during the engage-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 ment through rapid decision-making and confident actions”; and

2 Whereas many who served with First Lieutenant Pokorney have testified to his bravery, skill
3 and selfless sacrifice, which saved the lives of many of his fellow Marines, including Ben Williams,
4 whom he personally rescued while under harrowing enemy fire; and

5 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney was a brave and proud Marine who was known by all as a
6 “gentle giant” and a dedicated and loving family man; and

7 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney enjoyed playing basketball and spending time on the Oregon
8 coast, where he often could be found fishing, crabbing, camping, diving and riding bikes with his
9 wife; and

10 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney was a valued and important member of the Corvallis com-
11 munity, where he volunteered selflessly, built the obstacle course for the Oregon State University
12 Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program and starred for the Good Samaritan Hospital recre-
13 ational league basketball team; and

14 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney, in accordance with his wishes, was laid to rest at Arlington
15 National Cemetery on April 14, 2003; and

16 Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney is survived by his wife Carolyn “Chelle” and daughter
17 Taylor, both of whom he loved dearly, and will be forever remembered by those who knew him; now,
18 therefore,

19 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

20 That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor First
21 Lieutenant Frederick E. Pokorney, Jr., for his service to his country.

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