

Enrolled
House Concurrent Resolution 29

Sponsored by Representative MEEK, Senator MANNING JR

Whereas Sergeant First Class Richard Joseph Henkes II was born on December 19, 1973, and he grew up in Boring, Oregon; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes graduated from Clackamas High School in 1992, where he participated in wrestling and track and field; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes was an avid snowboarder, and he could often be found on the side of a mountain with friends or family; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes first enlisted in the United States Army in 1992, then served in the National Guard for several years before reenlisting in the regular Army; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes followed in a family tradition, as his father served in the United States Air Force, both his grandfathers served in the Army during World War II and his great-grandfather was a veteran of World War I; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes loved to have fun and was often the jokester at family gatherings, but he was very serious about being a soldier and he had a keen sense of responsibility and duty; and

Whereas in 2006 Sergeant First Class Henkes deployed to Iraq and was attached to Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes was very proud to serve his country, and he believed in the mission in Iraq and that he was doing something for the greater good; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes was an outstanding soldier and a tough but fair noncommissioned officer who was widely loved and respected; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes cared deeply about the soldiers he led, and he was described as the “father” of his platoon; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes was noted for his kindness and decency, and he often gave food, water and first aid to Iraqi children; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes was killed in action on September 3, 2006, when an improvised explosive device was detonated near his vehicle; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes’s courage and selfless devotion to duty, often in the midst of harrowing combat conditions, exemplified the spirit and values of the United States Army; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes’s many awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Air Assault Badge; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes was laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery; and

Whereas Sergeant First Class Henkes is greatly missed by his family and friends; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Sergeant First Class Richard Joseph Henkes II for his service to his country.

Adopted by House April 11, 2019

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 21, 2019

Peter Courtney, President of Senate