



Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Fund

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

HCR 203 Honoring Trooper Dale Benjamin Courtney
For Senate Committee on Rules hearing on February 19, 2020

Chair Burdick 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 Trust Fund. The board of the Fallen Officer Memorial Trust Fund consists of Eriks Gabliks, Director of The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, 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 Trust Fund, I am also the proud wife of Clackamas County Deputy, Jeff Kutter, and supporter of law enforcement.

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 Courtney 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 help to expand the means in which we are able to remember our fallen Oregon officers and to continue their stories. With their names erected on these signs, people are able to learn of their names and hopefully will take the time to look them up and learn more about the amazing individuals that they were.

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. It was the officer's calling to serve; it is an honor for us to remember.

The Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Trust Fund is proud to purchase the sign honoring Oregon State Trooper, Dale Benjamin Courtney to eliminate any expense to the state, the law enforcement agency, or the family.

I urge a yes vote on HCR 203. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Edelen Kutter".

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