

House Concurrent Resolution 203

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

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 Oregon State Police Trooper Dale Benjamin "Bennie" Courtney (1925-1950) for his service to this state.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Oregon State Police Trooper Dale Benjamin "Bennie" Courtney was born on June 29,
3 1925, in McMinnville, Oregon, to Benjamin Harrison Courtney and Arlie Mae (Hickerson) Courtney;
4 and

5 Whereas Trooper Courtney was raised in Yamhill County and graduated from Lafayette High
6 School; and

7 Whereas Trooper Courtney began his career of public service by enlisting in the United States
8 Army in September 1943 and serving his country during World War II; and

9 Whereas Trooper Courtney began his law enforcement career with the McMinnville Police De-
10 partment before becoming a trooper with the Oregon State Police on June 19, 1950; and

11 Whereas Trooper Courtney married Sylvia Alice Mahoney, and together they had a daughter,
12 Mary Kathleen "Casey" Courtney-Lindberg; and

13 Whereas just months into his service with the Oregon State Police, Trooper Courtney was called
14 to the home of Tigard farmer Fred Plieth, who had heard shooting from a neighbor's farm during the
15 early morning hours of October 1, 1950; and

16 Whereas Trooper Courtney and Plieth confronted two teenagers, Harvey Francis O'Day, 14, of
17 California and John Louis Wilson, 15, of Newberg; and

18 Whereas when Trooper Courtney entered the farmhouse, he was shot by O'Day and killed in-
19 stantly; and

20 Whereas the teenaged gunman also shot Plieth as he ran across a nearby field for help, but he
21 thankfully survived his wounds; and

22 Whereas O'Day and Wilson stole Trooper Courtney's service weapon and continued a spree of
23 crimes that included firing at another person, stealing two cars and robbing a service station at
24 gunpoint before they were finally apprehended in Tillamook; and

25 Whereas Trooper Courtney was not scheduled to work the day he was killed but was filling in
26 for one of his colleagues; and

27 Whereas Trooper Courtney was laid to rest at Evergreen Memorial Park in McMinnville; and

28 Whereas Trooper Courtney loved baseball and received an offer to play professionally for the
29 Cincinnati Reds, but he loved his family even more, so he turned down the offer in order to stay
30 close to home, near his widowed mother; and

31 Whereas Trooper Courtney shared his passion for baseball with others by serving as a volunteer

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 coach, and his teams had many successful seasons; and

2 Whereas Trooper Courtney enjoyed spending time with his wife and infant daughter, his mother
3 and his brother's family; and

4 Whereas Trooper Courtney was widely respected and had many family members and friends, and
5 he is still greatly missed; and

6 Whereas Trooper Courtney was a dedicated law enforcement officer who served the people of
7 the State of Oregon with honor and distinction; now, therefore,

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

9 That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Trooper Dale
10 Benjamin "Bennie" Courtney for his service to this state.

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