

# D R A F T

## SUMMARY

Recognizes and honors retired Oregon State Police Sergeant John Burrigh (1959-2021) for his service to this state.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Oregon State Police Sergeant John Burrigh was born on October 28, 1959, to Helen and Kenneth Burrigh; and

Whereas Sergeant Burrigh grew up in Corvallis, Oregon, with his older siblings Dave and Mary; and

Whereas Sergeant Burrigh graduated from Crescent Valley High School in 1978; and

Whereas Sergeant Burrigh attended Oregon State University and, while enrolled as a student, he worked as a security officer; and

Whereas Sergeant Burrigh followed multiple family members into law enforcement, including his father, Ken, and his brother, Dave, a former Linn County Sheriff; and

Whereas Burrigh family members currently work or have formerly worked in careers involving law enforcement; and

Whereas Sergeant Burrigh joined the Oregon State Police (OSP) in 1987 at age 27; and

Whereas Sergeant Burrigh began working out of the Roseburg OSP office, and he quickly made a name for himself; and

Whereas Sergeant Burrigh transferred to the Albany OSP office in 1989 and later transferred to the Salem office; and

Whereas in 1995, Sergeant Burrigh attended the State of Oregon's first

1 school in the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program, and in 1996, he be-  
2 came certified as an expert and served as an instructor in the DRE school;  
3 and

4 Whereas in 1996, Sergeant Burrright was awarded the OSP's Holly V.  
5 Holcomb Award for heroism, with fellow OSP trooper and good friend Rich  
6 Pileggi and OSP Lieutenant Chuck Hayes, for pulling a man from a burning  
7 vehicle; and

8 Whereas in 2001, Sergeant Burrright received the OSP's trooper of the year  
9 award; and

10 Whereas during Sergeant Burrright's 14-year OSP career, he served in the  
11 Patrol Division and the Criminal Division, and he was one of the original  
12 members of the Mobile Response Team; and

13 Whereas Sergeant Burrright was a courageous and dedicated professional  
14 who shared his sense of humor with all those with whom he came into con-  
15 tact; and

16 Whereas Sergeant Burrright was a devoted and loving husband to Rhonda,  
17 father to three sons—Kyle, Jeremy and Nolan—and grandfather to Jace and  
18 Ari; and

19 Whereas Sergeant Burrright loved playing all types of sports, and he  
20 worked hard to keep his fitness at a very high level; and

21 Whereas Sergeant Burrright enjoyed camping and fishing with his family  
22 and friends; and

23 Whereas the lives of Sergeant Burrright and those closest to him were  
24 forever changed on September 4, 2001; and

25 Whereas on that evening, Sergeant Burrright, OSP Senior Trooper Maria  
26 Mignano and Officer Jason Hoerauf of the Albany Police Department were  
27 struck by a vehicle on Interstate-5 near Albany as they were assisting a  
28 family whose van had broken down on the highway; and

29 Whereas Senior Trooper Mignano and Officer Hoerauf were killed in-  
30 stantly and Sergeant Burrright sustained critical injuries from which he  
31 never recovered and which caused him to medically retire in 2002; and

1       Whereas from December 2001 to May 4, 2021, Sergeant Burright received  
2 around-the-clock care from a private care facility in Albany; and

3       Whereas despite Sergeant Burright's injuries, his wife recalls that he had  
4 the ability to comprehend everything in his surroundings and that he was  
5 able to hear and communicate through facial expressions, eye rolls and  
6 laughter; and

7       Whereas Sergeant Burright was fully aware that he was well taken care  
8 of and loved by his family, friends and the entire staff who tended to him  
9 at the care facility; and

10       Whereas Sergeant Burright fought for his life with toughness and  
11 bravery, and his tremendous physical fitness played a role in his survival;  
12 and

13       Whereas Sergeant Burright died on May 4, 2021, almost 20 years after he  
14 sustained his traumatic injuries; and

15       Whereas OSP officials attributed Sergeant Burright's early death to the  
16 injuries he sustained on September 4, 2001, and they designated his passing  
17 as a "line of duty" death; and

18       Whereas Sergeant Burright was the 34th OSP trooper to die in the line  
19 of duty; and

20       Whereas Sergeant Burright is survived by his wife and their three sons,  
21 two grandchildren, his mother, his brother, his sister and many other family  
22 members, friends and colleagues who honor him; and

23       Whereas on April 21, 2016, in a dedication ceremony held outside the new  
24 OSP headquarters building, a Salem street was named in honor of Sergeant  
25 Burright; and

26       Whereas Sergeant Burright was a dedicated law enforcement officer who  
27 served the people of the State of Oregon with honor and distinction; now,  
28 therefore,

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

30       That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, recognize  
31 and honor Sergeant John Burright for his service to this state.

