81st OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2021 Regular Session

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 7

Sponsored by Representative GOMBERG; Representatives EVANS, LEWIS, MOORE-GREEN, RESCHKE, Senator MANNING JR (Preseason filed.)

Whereas Oregon State Police Lieutenant Harold R. Berg was born on February 26, 1937, to Harold and Ethyl Berg in Pawnee, Oklahoma; and

Whereas Lieutenant Berg grew up in Pawnee with his sisters, Willa Mae and Carol LaVern, and he graduated from Pawnee High School in 1955; and

Whereas Lieutenant Berg married Sara Jane Smith, and in 1956 they moved to Prairie City, Oregon; and

Whereas Lieutenant Berg worked for the United States Forest Service and the State Forestry Department; and

Whereas Lieutenant Berg became a member of the Oregon State Police (OSP) in 1960; and

Whereas Lieutenant Berg was promoted to corporal in 1968, and in 1970 he was promoted to sergeant and became District Criminal Investigator for eastern Oregon; and

Whereas Lieutenant Berg’s leadership and ability were again recognized in July 1971, when he was transferred to Salem and became the first commander of the OSP narcotics unit; and

Whereas Lieutenant Berg then became assistant commander of the OSP Criminal Division, and he was promoted to lieutenant in August 1973; and

Whereas during his police career, Lieutenant Berg worked on many major criminal cases and he showed exceptional skill and dedication in his work; and

Whereas when not in uniform, Lieutenant Berg enjoyed building and flying gas-powered model airplanes, participating in soap box derbys with his son, spending time with friends and family, hunting, beachcombing, sightseeing and woodworking; and

Whereas on May 10, 1975, while he was off duty and enjoying a family picnic at Cape Lookout State Park, Lieutenant Berg volunteered in a search and rescue operation for two missing Boy Scouts; and

Whereas while attempting to search a cave near the water’s edge, Lieutenant Berg was washed out to sea by a sneaker wave and he died at the age of 38; and

Whereas the scouts were later found safe away from the shore; and

Whereas two days after Lieutenant Berg’s death, OSP Superintendent Holly V. Holcomb wrote a letter to his family stating: “I have known of no finer person or a more respected police officer within our department. His children can be very proud of their father for even in his last act he was unselfishly attempting to assist others.”; and

Whereas the OSP established the Harold R. Berg Lifesaving Award in his memory; and

Whereas at his End of Watch, Lieutenant Berg was survived by four children, who have since added 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren to his legacy; and

Whereas Lieutenant Berg’s selfless and heroic actions exemplified the spirit and commitment of the OSP and its credo that an officer is “never off duty”; and

Whereas Lieutenant Berg was a dedicated law enforcement officer who served the people of the State of Oregon with honor and distinction; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Lieutenant Harold R. Berg for his service to this state.