

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 20

Sponsored by Representative NOBLE; Representatives LEWIS, MOORE-GREEN (Presession filed.)

Whereas Oregon State Police Trooper Dale Benjamin “Bennie” Courtney was born on June 29, 1925, in McMinnville, Oregon, to Benjamin Harrison Courtney and Arlie Mae (Hickerson) Courtney; and

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

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

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

Whereas Trooper Courtney married Sylvia Alice Mahoney, and together they had a daughter, Mary Kathleen “Casey” Courtney-Lindberg, and a son, Dale B. Courtney; and

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

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

Whereas when Trooper Courtney entered the farmhouse, he was shot by O’Day and killed instantly; and

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

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

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

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

Whereas at the time of Trooper Courtney’s death, his wife was pregnant with their son, Dale B. Courtney; and

Whereas the trauma due to Trooper Courtney’s death resulted in Sylvia Courtney going into premature labor, and their infant son would not survive, passing away on January 25, 1951; and

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

Whereas Trooper Courtney shared his passion for baseball with others by serving as a volunteer coach, and his teams had many successful seasons; and

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

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

Whereas Trooper Courtney 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 Trooper Dale Benjamin “Bennie” Courtney for his service to this state.

Adopted by House April 27, 2021

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate June 10, 2021

Peter Courtney, President of Senate