House Concurrent Resolution 20

Sponsored by Representative NOBLE (Presession filed.)

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; and 4 Whereas Trooper Courtney was raised in Yamhill County and graduated from Lafavette High 5 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 Department before becoming a trooper with the Oregon State Police on June 19, 1950; and 10 Whereas Trooper Courtney married Sylvia Alice Mahoney, and together they had a daughter, 11 12 Mary Kathleen "Casey" Courtney-Lindberg, and a son, Dale B. Courtney; and 13Whereas 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 14 early morning hours of October 1, 1950; and 15Whereas Trooper Courtney and Plieth confronted two teenagers, Harvey Francis O'Day, 14, of 16 17 California and John Louis Wilson, 15, of Newberg; and Whereas when Trooper Courtney entered the farmhouse, he was shot by O'Day and killed in-18 19 stantly; and 20 Whereas the teenaged gunman also shot Plieth as he ran across a nearby field for help, but he 21thankfully survived his wounds; and Whereas O'Day and Wilson stole Trooper Courtney's service weapon and continued a spree of 22crimes that included firing at another person, stealing two cars and robbing a service station at 2324 gunpoint before they were finally apprehended in Tillamook; and 25Whereas Trooper Courtney was not scheduled to work the day he was killed but was filling in 26for one of his colleagues; and 27Whereas Trooper Courtney was laid to rest at Evergreen Memorial Park in McMinnville; and 28 Whereas at the time of Trooper Courtney's death, his wife was pregnant with their son, Dale B. Courtney; and 2930 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 31

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1 Whereas Trooper Courtney loved baseball and received an offer to play professionally for the

2 Cincinnati Reds, but he loved his family even more, so he turned down the offer in order to stay 3 close to home, near his widowed mother; and

- 4 Whereas Trooper Courtney shared his passion for baseball with others by serving as a volunteer 5 coach, and his teams had many successful seasons; and
- 6 Whereas Trooper Courtney enjoyed spending time with his wife and infant daughter, his mother 7 and his brother's family; and
- 8 Whereas Trooper Courtney was widely respected and had many family members and friends, and 9 he is still greatly missed; and

10 Whereas Trooper Courtney was a dedicated law enforcement officer who served the people of 11 the State of Oregon with honor and distinction; now, therefore,

12 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 TrooperDale Benjamin "Bennie" Courtney for his service to this state.
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