

HCR 202 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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Meeting Dates: 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Honors the life and service of Oregon State Police Sergeant John Burrigh, retired (1959-2021).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon State Police Sergeant John Burrigh was born on October 28, 1959, grew up in Corvallis, Oregon, and graduated from Crescent Valley High School in 1978. He attended Oregon State University and worked as a security person while enrolled. Sergeant Burrigh's career in law enforcement followed several family members, including his father and his brother; currently, fourteen Burrigh family members' have careers involving law enforcement. In 1987, at the age of 27, Sergeant Burrigh joined the Oregon State Police (OSP). Sergeant Burrigh began working in the Roseburg OSP office, later transferred to Albany, and then to Salem. In 1995 he attended the first Drug Recognition Expert program (DRE) in Oregon; became certified, and served as an instructor. In 1996, Sergeant Burrigh, with fellow trooper Rich Pileggi and Lieutenant Chuck Hayes, was awarded OSP's Holly v. Holcomb Award for heroism after they pulled a man from a burning vehicle. In 2001, Sergeant Burrigh received the OSP's Trooper of the Year award. During Sergeant Burrigh's 14-year career, he served in the Patrol Division and the Criminal Division, and he was one of the original members of the Mobile Response Team.

Sergeant Burrigh was a courageous and dedicated professional who shared his sense of humor with others. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather. Sergeant Burrigh enjoyed a variety of sports, and he worked hard to maintain a high level of fitness. Sergeant Burrigh liked to camp and fish with his family and friends. His life, and the lives of those closest to him, were forever changed on September 4, 2001: while assisting a family whose van had broken down on Interstate 5 near Albany, Sergeant Burrigh, Senior Trooper Maria Mignano, and Albany Police Officer Jason Hoerauf, were struck by a vehicle. Senior Trooper Mignano and Officer Hoerauf were killed instantly and Sergeant Burrigh sustained critical injuries from which he never recovered, which led to his medical retirement in 2002.

From December 2001 to May 4, 2021, Sergeant Burrigh received around-the-clock care from a private care facility in Albany. Despite Sergeant Burrigh's injuries, his wife recalls that he could comprehend everything in his surroundings and that he was able to hear and communicate through facial expressions, eye rolls, and laughter. Sergeant Burrigh was fully aware that he was well taken care of and loved by his family, friends, and the entire staff who tended to him. Sergeant Burrigh fought for his life with toughness and bravery; he died on May 4, 2021, almost 20 years after sustaining traumatic injuries in the line of duty. . Sergeant Burrigh is the 34th trooper to die in the line of duty and is survived by his wife, three sons, two grandchildren, his mother, his siblings, and many other family members, friends, and colleagues. On April 21, 2016, a street in Salem was named in honor of Sergeant Burrigh.

House Concurrent Resolution 202 recognizes Oregon State Police Sergeant John Burrigh, retired, a dedicated law enforcement officer who served the people of the state of Oregon with honor and distinction.