

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 204

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES (at the request of Representative Mark Owens)

Whereas Sergeant John Noble Holcomb was born on June 11, 1946, in Baker City, Oregon, the seat of Baker County; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb attended elementary schools in Baker County and was a 1964 graduate of Eagle Valley High School in Richland, Oregon; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb enlisted in the United States Army in Corvallis, Oregon, in 1966; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb began his tour of duty in Vietnam on March 23, 1968; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb was assigned to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division; and

Whereas during an enemy attack on December 3, 1968, near Quan Loi Base Camp, Binh Long Province, Republic of Vietnam, during Operation Sheridan Sabre, Sergeant Holcomb led his squad in the defense of their position; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb, with complete disregard for heavy enemy fire, moved among his men, giving encouragement and directing fire on the assaulting enemy; and

Whereas when their machine gunner was wounded, Sergeant Holcomb seized the weapon and ran to a forward edge of their position and placed withering fire on the enemy; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb's gallant actions caused the enemy to withdraw, and Sergeant Holcomb treated the wounded and carried them to a position of safety before reorganizing his defensive sector, despite a raging grass fire ignited by incoming mortar and rocket rounds; and

Whereas the enemy assaulted the position a second time and Sergeant Holcomb again manned the forward machine gun, devastating the enemy attack and forcing the enemy to again break contact and withdraw; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb's position was hit by an enemy rocket, destroying his machine gun and severely wounding him; and

Whereas despite his painful wounds, Sergeant Holcomb crawled through the grass fire and exploding mortar and rocket rounds to move the members of his squad, each of whom had been wounded, to more secure positions; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb was the last surviving leader of his platoon, and he organized his men to repel the enemy; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb crawled to the platoon radio and reported the third enemy assault on his position, which brought friendly supporting fire to bear on the charging enemy and broke up the enemy attack; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb perished from his wounds later that day; and

Whereas in 1971, Sergeant Holcomb was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest decoration for valor in combat; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge and Vietnam Service Medal; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb was buried at Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland and he is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and

Whereas Sergeant Holcomb was an outstanding leader who served his country with honor, distinction and selfless devotion to duty; 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 Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant John Noble Holcomb for his heroism and service to his country.

Adopted by House February 21, 2022

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate March 3, 2022

Peter Courtney, President of Senate