

January 31, 2022

Oregon Senate Bill SCR-201: In Memoriam for Patrick J. Simpson, LTC, US Army, Retired

I am Patrick's brother, Don Simpson. Like Pat, I am a retired Army LTC. The Army retiree motto is "Soldier for Life" and Pat, like many retirees, did not stop serving just because he took off the uniform. As you read the resolution, you can see that his service both during and after active duty was significant.

I would like to share a short vignette that will give you an idea of the type soldier and leader Pat was. As a rifle company commander in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in Vietnam in 1967, he always rode the lead helicopter on combat assaults. When I was a company CO, I rode the fourth chopper back so I'd land in the middle of the formation. I asked Pat about riding the lead bird, and he said that was what his predecessor did so he just decided to continue doing the same, and, besides, nobody ever shoots at the lead ship.

Toward the end of his tour, his company was alerted for a tough mission. Every soldier knows there is a bullet out there with his name on it and when you get close to the end of your tour, you tend to get apprehensive and think that, perhaps, your number is coming up.

While the company was waiting for the choppers to pick them up, the battalion commander visited the company and talked to Pat's soldiers about what they thought of the mission. One soldier said, "We're not worried, the old man is still riding the lead ship." To me, that reflects the

respect the soldiers held for him and also the rapport he had with them. That was the type of soldier and man he was.

Patrick had a strong sense of duty. That was ingrained in him as a young man in school and participating in athletics. That ethic was reinforced by his military service. Once retired, he continued to be involved. I think the question he always asked himself was, "If I don't do it, who will". His answer was to continue to serve.

I know I speak for our family and Pat's friends when I thank your committee for considering this resolution. and, specifically, I would like to thank Senator Manning and Pat's colleagues in the Emerald Empire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America for their friendship to Pat and for preparing and presenting this resolution. This is a great honor and we all thank you.

Donald A. Simpson

LTC, US Army, Retired