

SCR 10 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

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Meeting Dates: 3/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Memorializes John Michael “Mike” Garvey (1953-2022).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

John Michael “Mike” Garvey was born in Portland, Oregon, on November 9, 1953. He grew up in Portland and graduated from Wilson High School. He knew at an early age that law enforcement was his calling and wanted to serve the people of Portland to make his community a better place. Mike was an Oregon State Police cadet as a teenager and his work with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) began in 1977, starting as a radio dispatcher.

Mike steadily rose through the ranks of the PPB and served in various leadership positions and attained the rank of commander. As a young officer Mike was shot and severely wounded in the line of duty, earning the Police Star for his conduct. As commander of PPB’s Central Precinct, he supervised all uniformed officers on the west side of the Willamette River in Portland and served as Portland Mayor Frank Ivancie’s personal bodyguard. He was known for his heroism and accomplishments, but also for his compassion and willingness to help the officers he served with and supervised.

Mike was the PPB’s first openly gay male officer, and he faced that challenge by striving to be the best police officer and leader he could be. He retired from the PPB in 2005 and had a successful second career as a real estate broker. He loved to play golf, travel, run half-marathons and spend time with his life partner, Randy Gale. Mike lost his battle with cancer and passed away at home on August 8, 2022, surrounded by his loved ones.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 memorializes the life of John Michael “Mike” Garvey as a civil rights pioneer who helped to create a culture of diversity and tolerance at the Portland Police Bureau and in the City of Portland. He was a dedicated police officer who served the people of the State of Oregon with honor and distinction during his trailblazing career.