

House Concurrent Resolution 27

Sponsored by Representative STOUT, Senator WEBER

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 volunteer firefighter Robert A. Hales (1967-2008) for his service to this state.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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Whereas Robert A. Hales was a native Oregonian, born on September 4, 1967; and

Whereas Robert Hales graduated from St. Helens High School; and

Whereas Robert Hales joined the United States Army in 1985, and he served his country with honor and distinction; and

Whereas Robert Hales began his training as a large equipment mechanic while in the Army and completed his diesel certification at Portland Community College; and

Whereas Robert Hales worked as a mechanic for Hertz Equipment Rental for 12 years; and

Whereas Robert and Mary Hales were married in 1991, and together they raised three daughters: Heather, Katie and Sandra; and

Whereas Robert and Mary Hales moved to Scappoose, Oregon, to be near Robert's extended family, and in 1999 they bought a house across the creek from the fire station; and

Whereas Robert Hales' interest in becoming a firefighter stemmed from the premature birth and illness of his daughter Katie, which prompted him to learn all he could about her care, and he ultimately became certified as an emergency medical technician (EMT); and

Whereas Robert Hales began his volunteer career with the Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District in 2000; and

Whereas Robert Hales loved the family atmosphere of the fire station, and he would often stop at the station just to visit and chat with other fire personnel; and

Whereas Robert Hales used his skills and training to help maintain fire equipment and vehicles, and he was widely respected for his ability to diagnose and repair mechanical problems; and

Whereas Robert Hales loved his community and he was a dedicated volunteer in many different ways, including doing agricultural work at a farm museum in Columbia County that his grandfather had helped to found, doing maintenance at the county fairgrounds and serving as a campground superintendent with his wife; and

Whereas being a volunteer firefighter was a natural extension of Robert Hales' commitment to his community, and he signed on for this dangerous work to help the people he cared about while giving back to the place he called home; and

Whereas in 2001, Robert Hales was honored with a local volunteer firefighter of the year award, and in 2002 he was nominated for the statewide award as the top volunteer firefighter in Oregon; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Whereas Robert Hales was an exemplary volunteer firefighter and EMT, and he could always
2 be counted on to respond to a fire or rescue call coming over the radio; and

3 Whereas on August 17, 2008, Robert Hales responded to a call early in the morning and spent
4 12 hours fighting multiple wildfires caused by lightning strikes; and

5 Whereas shortly after returning home, Robert Hales offered to drive his daughter to her job, but
6 less than a mile from their house he suffered a cardiac event that caused him to lose consciousness
7 and crash his vehicle; and

8 Whereas although his daughter mercifully escaped from the accident unhurt, Robert Hales died
9 at the scene, surrounded by his Scappoose firefighting family; and

10 Whereas because he died shortly after fighting wildfires, Robert Hales' death was officially
11 considered to be in the line of duty, and he is honored on the Oregon Fallen Firefighters Memorial;
12 and

13 Whereas Robert Hales was survived by his wife of 17 years and their three daughters, and his
14 loss was deeply felt by his fellow firefighters and his many friends; and

15 Whereas Robert Hales was honored with a funeral procession that included firefighters and
16 their vehicles from all over Oregon; and

17 Whereas since his death, Robert Hales' family have been heavily involved with the National
18 Fallen Firefighters Foundation, volunteering to help other families in need; and

19 Whereas Robert Hales was a dedicated volunteer firefighter and EMT who served the people
20 of his community and the State of Oregon with honor and distinction; now, therefore,

21 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

22 That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor volunteer
23 firefighter Robert A. Hales for his service to this state.

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