

Submitter: Jakob Gentry

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: SCR4

Dear Senator Hansell:

Sherman County Sheriff's Deputy Doug Smith and I were childhood friends and he was an awesome kid. I want people to remember him, and to honor his service to Sherman County as a Deputy. I therefore ask that you, along with Representative Greg Smith, pass a resolution in accordance with HB 3039 and request the Oregon Department of Transportation place a roadside memorial along Highway 97 in Sherman County to remind people passing by the spot where he died of the sacrifice he made.

Following is biographical information for Douglas Smith, which has been gathered from family members, friends, the current Sheriff of Sherman County, and my own personal memories. There is much interest in Sherman County to see a roadside memorial erected along Highway 97 near Wasco to honor Doug and his service. Thank you for your consideration.

- End of watch Sunday, August 27th, 1978. Deputy Douglas Eugene Smith was killed in a head-on collision on Highway 97 outside of Wasco near mile marker 12. He was 23 years old. Doug's patrol car was struck head-on by a vehicle occupied by persons being sought by law enforcement.
- Doug was born in 1955 and spent much of his life living in Sherman County.
- Doug graduated from Sherman County High School in 1973 where he was active on the student council, played football, and was a runner in track. He also loved swimming.
- Doug went on to graduate from the University of Oregon with a degree in Political Science.
- After college Doug returned to Sherman County to work as a Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Gerald Lohrey.
- Initially Doug had hopes of one day becoming an attorney, but later decided he wanted to pursue a career helping troubled youth and had plans to return to school to get a degree that would permit him to work in youthful offender programs.
- Doug loved spending time in the summers rafting on the Deschutes and John Day Rivers with friends.
- Doug was kindhearted with a great sense of humor.
- Doug left behind numerous friends and family members who have missed him greatly.
- His ashes were scattered in the Buck Hollow area of Sherman County.

I truly appreciate your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Jakob Gentry