

Phyllis Darnall
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March 21, 2023

Senator James I. Manning Jr.,
Chair, Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
900 Court St, NE S-209
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: SCR 11

Dear Senator Manning.

I am Phyllis Darnall, the widow of the late Don Edward Darnall, Lance Corporal, United States Marine Corps. I live in Bend, Oregon not far from Bend High School where Don graduated in 1964.

I thank you and your Committee for holding this public hearing on SCR 11 that would honor my husband who made the ultimate sacrifice along with over 700 other Oregonians faithfully serving our nation in South Vietnam.

I also thank Senator Tim Knopp for sponsoring SCR 11 which includes more detailed information on Don.

The honors take the form of Fallen Hero Memorial roadside markers installed by ODOT at locations agreeable to ODOT and families. I understand that once the SCR is approved, I am required to pay ODOT \$600 to fabricate and install a sign.

I have seen several Fallen Hero roadside markers which were dedicated in formal ceremonies with families, friends, elected officials, and veterans participating. They are a great solace to us Gold Star families and a highly visible reminder to the public that freedom comes at a high price.

A roadside marker will compliment other tributes to Don in Bend: Bend Heroes Memorial, Bend Parade of Flags, Wreaths Across America, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Deschutes Memorial Gardens. On a larger scale, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway on I-84 and Purple Heart Trail on I-5 also honor Oregon's fallen heroes who served in Vietnam as will the Oregon Gold Star Families Memorial Highway on US Hwy 30. I thank the Oregon Legislative Assembly and Governors for designating those highways.

I respectfully request the Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs vote unanimously in favor of SCR 11 with a Do Pass recommendation to the Senate. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
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