

HCR 202 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/20, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure recognizes and honors the work of Dick Tobiason for his lifetime of service to Oregon's veterans, Medal of Honor recipients, and Gold Star Families.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment adds language recognizing Dick Tobiason's role in designating the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway and the Purple Heart Trail. It corrects the year he became involved in the legislative process as an advocate. It adds language recognizing the family members of fallen service members.

BACKGROUND:

Dick Tobiason served 20 years in the United States Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel and Army Master Aviator. He is a Purple Heart recipient and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. In his first tour of duty, Mr. Tobiason served as the commanding officer of a forward air patrol unit that supported the 3rd Marine Division. In his second tour of duty, he served as an advisor to the South Vietnamese government. Upon retirement from the Army, Mr. Tobiason worked as a manager at the NASA Flight Research Program in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Tobiason has been a veterans' advocate in the federal, state and local legislative process since 1985. His nonprofit organization, "The Bend Heroes Foundation," helped Oregon adopt laws honoring nearly half a million Oregon veterans serving from World War I to the Iraq War. Mr. Tobiason led efforts through this foundation to open Central Oregon Veterans Village, a safe rest village that helps homeless veterans move into permanent housing. Mr. Tobiason contributed significantly to the passage of House Bill 2010 (2017), designating a portion of United States Highway 20 as the Medal of Honor Highway. Since the passage of House Bill 2010, 12 other states, in partnership with Mr. Tobiason, have adopted similar frameworks, collectively creating a memorial highway network that spans the nation and honors Medal of Honor recipients from coast to coast. Mr. Tobiason led efforts for the passage of House Bill 3452 (2020), designating United States Highway 26 as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway and House Bill 2146 (2023), creating Oregon's Gold Star Families Memorial Highway, which honors service members who fell in the line of duty and creates places of remembrance for their surviving family members.