

SCR 207 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure celebrates the life of United States Navy Hospital Corpsman William Lyle Sperb (1948-1969) and recognizes and honors his service to his community, state, and country.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

United States Navy Hospital Corpsman William Lyle Sperb was born in Oregon City, Oregon, on August 22, 1948, to Lyle and Inez Sperb. He was raised in Gresham and attended East Orient Elementary School and Gresham High School where he served as Gresham High School student body vice president, played baseball on the Gresham High School varsity baseball team, and served as president of the Gresham chapter of the Oregon Future Farmers of America.

Corpsman Sperb enlisted in the United States Navy in October 1966 and proudly served his country in the Vietnam War, where he attained the rank of Petty Officer Second Class/Hospital Corpsman Second Class. He began his tour of duty on December 24, 1967, and was attached to 3rd Marine Amphibious Force, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Aircraft Group 16, Marine Air Base Squadron 16.

Corpsman Sperb was in the last month of his first extension in Vietnam when he perished in a helicopter crash, along with three others, while on a medevac mission in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam, on April 14, 1969. He had flown a record-breaking 803 medevac missions during his time in Vietnam and announced plans to fly 1,000 missions total. He was awarded numerous medals and commendations for his wartime service, including the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Corpsman Sperb carried on a proud Sperb tradition of military service that began with his father, Lyle Sperb, a United States Navy Aviation Machinist's Mate Third Class, Petty Officer Third Class, who served in World War II and the Korean War, and continued with Corpsman Sperb and his brothers, United States Air Force Sergeant Stephen Sperb and United States Marine Corps Sergeant Calvin Sperb, who both served in Vietnam.

Corpsman Sperb was laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. He was survived by his parents, Lyle and Inez; his sister, Dorothy; his three brothers, Stephen, Calvin, and Anthony; and his grandparents, Louis Sperb and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Makin. His selfless devotion to duty exemplified the spirit and values of the United States Navy.