

**SCR 213 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Carrier: Sen. Weber

**Senate Committee On Rules**


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**Action Date:** 02/27/24  
**Action:** Do adopt.  
**Vote:** 5-0-0-0  
**Yeas:** 5 - Hansell, Knopp, Lieber, Manning Jr, Steiner  
**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 2/27

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure celebrates the life of United States Army Specialist Ken “Kenny” Leisten (1984-2004) and recognizes and honors his dedication to serving his community, his state, and his country.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Kenny Leisten's character, memory, and legacy
- The cause of his death during his first deployment
- The installation of a highway sign
- His nomination for an U.S. Army Medal of Valor, prior to his death

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

United States Army Specialist Ken “Kenny” Leisten was born in Santa Rosa, California, on July 5, 1984. At age 7, he moved with his father and stepmother from San Diego, California, to Washington County, Oregon, where he spent the majority of his life. He attended Forest Grove High School in Forest Grove, Oregon, and chose to become a member of the Oregon National Guard in Corvallis, Oregon, during a time of war, serving with the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry.

Specialist Leisten worked full time as a clerk in the maintenance department at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon, ensuring equipment readiness, and he volunteered to attend training to reclass to 11B Infantryman for deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom II. He was awarded an Army Commendation Medal with Valor for maintaining radio communication with the Tactical Operations Center during an ambush involving small arms fire and improvised explosive devices (IED). He was killed in action on July 28, 2004, when his vehicle struck an IED while on combat patrol in Taji, Iraq. His selfless devotion to duty exemplified the spirit and values of the United States Army.

Specialist Leisten’s loss was felt deeply by his family, his friends, and his fellow soldiers. He was laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon, on August 9, 2004. He was survived by his father, Ken Leisten Sr.; his stepmother, Lisa LaBlanc; his grandmother, Trudy Griffin; aunts and uncles, Linda and Rich Saffiote, Jenny and Bill Audrain, and Kathy and Allen Leisten; and cousins Alex, Angela, Alecia, Adam, Jake, and Kelly.