

Submitter: Judith Kirkham
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SCR207

February 26, 2024

Senator Kate Lieber, Rules Committee Chair

Re: SCR 207

Senator Lieber:

I am writing this letter in support of SCR 207, which is slated for a hearing to recognize and honor Corpsman William Lyle Sperb (1948-1969) for his service to his country. William Sperb, or Bill Sperb as we all knew him, was a fellow 1966 classmate at Gresham Union High School.

Bill was a funny, intelligent, and engaging young man. He was a friend to all his classmates whether we were academics, athletes, FFA members, members of student government, or just plain old fellow students. I remember his smiling face and outgoing personality and that twinkle in his eye he would get which we would all recognize as an "Oh, heck, what is Bill going to do now?" moment!

In 1967 at Oregon State University, when I first met the young man who would later become my husband, this Medford area guy, when I said I was from Gresham, asked if I knew someone from Gresham named Bill who was involved in FFA. When I asked if he meant Bill Sperb, he said, "Yes," and proceeded to entertain me with tales about the previous year's all Oregon FFA members' train trip to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Bill figured prominently in the antics those students got up to on that trip. Wherever Bill was, at whatever event, people were sure to know who he was!

I surely wish, as do all my classmates, that Bill had survived his experience as a Corpsman and had been able to achieve his goal of becoming a doctor. All his fellow soldiers, I'm sure, recognized his commitment to serve them and his country with his all, which he did. The young man we knew was fully committed to whatever task he undertook.

I would ask for the legislature's support in honoring our classmate, William Lyle Sperb, with the passage of SCR 207. I hope you agree, and on behalf of the State of Oregon, choose to recognize his service and sacrifice for our country.

Sincerely,

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