

HCR 29 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure honors and celebrates the life and career of David Todd Meyer, who lived from 1967 to 2024, and expresses gratitude for his service to the people of this state.

Fiscal impact: No impact

Revenue impact: No impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Sharing the life and contributions of David Todd Meyer
- Keeping his memory alive through the resolution

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

David Todd Meyer was born on December 28, 1967, in Ontario, Oregon, to Dick Meyer and Margaret Sigurdson. He attended elementary school in Fruitland, Idaho, and when the family moved to Ontario in 1976, he attended Cairo Elementary School. He made lifelong friends during his school years, with whom he shared his hobbies and passions, especially skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, and bodybuilding. When he was not enjoying the outdoors with his family and friends, David Meyer helped at the family ranch, working on fences, moving cows, and branding.

David Meyer graduated from Ontario High School in 1985, and he attended Treasure Valley Community College before graduating from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. While in college, he volunteered at a rape crisis center, which fueled his decision to pursue a career in law enforcement.

David Meyer was a reserve officer before gaining a position in 1991 with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) as a patrol officer. He steadily rose through the ranks of the PPB, and he served in various leadership positions with increasing responsibility.

In 2008, David Meyer became part of the PPB's Crisis Negotiation Team, and he joined an effort to partner the PPB with Lines for Life, a local nonprofit organization that answers calls on the national suicide and crisis hotline. Through this relationship, he came to the understanding—rare in law enforcement circles at that time—that while suicidal ideation is one of many considerations used to evaluate risk of homicide, there was not a direct correlation, and that the vast majority of suicidal subjects do not pose a risk of harm to others and therefore do not need to be taken into police custody and that the use of force to do so was rarely warranted.

David Meyer made it his mission to educate law enforcement at the local and state levels on this reality, and he created training tools and presentations that he shared with agency leaders, tactical team leaders, and crisis responders. His efforts in the area of crisis response significantly contributed to a nationwide shift in law enforcement response to suicidal individuals, resulting in responses being more thoughtful, nuanced, and legally defensible.

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In 2010, David Meyer was promoted to lieutenant and was the first probationary lieutenant to be selected to lead the PPB's Tactical Operations Division. He was renowned for his integrity, work ethic, and commitment to excellence, and he was a beloved leader who never asked his team to do something he wouldn't do alongside them. He was a police officer who cared deeply about his community, and he had a rare ability to bring calm to people in moments of crisis. He embodied the mission of law enforcement: to serve and protect.

David Meyer met Tamara, the love of his life, in 1992, and they were married for 29 wonderful years and had two daughters together. He loved spending time with his family, whether it was going to rodeos, mountain biking, skiing, paddleboarding, cheering at Seattle Mariners baseball games, or attending concerts.

In 2018, following his retirement from the PPB, David Meyer moved with his family to Idaho, the place he had spent his early years, so he could be closer to his brother, and his family could enjoy the outdoors. He truly lived life to the fullest, and he was always ready for an adventure or a good time with his tight network of family and close friends.

David Meyer died on December 28, 2024, in the mountains and snow, doing what he loved with the people he loved. He was survived by his beloved wife, Tamara; daughters, Amanda and Alyssa; brother, Stephen, and sister, Christine; stepbrother, John, and stepsisters, Marie, Yvette, and Tanya; mother, Margaret; stepmother, Jenny; and many nieces and nephews.

David Meyer will forever be remembered for his decades of dedicated service in law enforcement and the profound and lasting impact he had on his community and the people of the State of Oregon.