



1       Whereas during his time in Vietnam, SP4 Cochran earned the National Defense Service Medal,  
2 the Vietnam Service Medal and the Expert Rifleman Badge; and

3       Whereas in a letter to his grandmother Marguerite dated March 20, 1968, SP4 Cochran pondered  
4 whether the blossoms in Philomath were yet in bloom; and

5       Whereas on May 1, 1968, SP4 Cochran was killed during combat operations in Thua Thien  
6 Province, South Vietnam; and

7       Whereas SP4 Cochran knew that serving his country was what he was meant to do, and he gave  
8 his life to uphold that destiny; and

9       Whereas SP4 Cochran's awards and decorations that were posthumously awarded to his grand-  
10 mother Marguerite included the Bronze Star Medal with Oakleaf Cluster for meritorious service, the  
11 Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge; and

12       Whereas SP4 Cochran was buried in 1968 at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland,  
13 Oregon; and

14       Whereas the Paul J. Cochran Memorial Scholarship was established at Philomath High School  
15 in 1968 to honor SP4 Cochran's sacrifice, and it was awarded to its first recipient, graduating senior  
16 Ben Beddingfield, that June; and

17       Whereas SP4 Cochran's name appears on panel 53E, line 29, of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
18 in Washington, D.C.; and

19       Whereas on August 5, 2018, 50 years after SP4 Cochran's death, his loving mother Beverly  
20 passed away; and

21       Whereas in February 2019, Shane Cochran-Fritz, SP4 Cochran's sister and executor of their  
22 mother's estate, came to Philomath City Hall and revealed that Beverly's final wish was that the  
23 property at 1545 College Street be donated to the City of Philomath in order to create a memorial  
24 park further honoring SP4 Cochran's sacrifice; and

25       Whereas Beverly wished for the park to become a communal space where people could gather  
26 together to reflect on the human cost of war; and

27       Whereas in accordance with Beverly's wishes, the City of Philomath demolished the home at  
28 1545 College Street on August 15, 2020, making way for the park to come; and

29       Whereas the City of Philomath was awarded a Veterans and War Memorial Grant from the State  
30 Parks and Recreation Department in 2022 for a granite memorial to be erected at the park; and

31       Whereas construction of the Paul J. Cochran Veterans Memorial Park began in August 2023;  
32 and

33       Whereas the Paul J. Cochran Veterans Memorial Park dedication took place on November 9,  
34 2024, and Shane Cochran-Fritz had the honor of cutting the ribbon and officially opening the park  
35 to the public; and

36       Whereas SP4 Cochran is survived by Shane Cochran-Fritz, his brother Nicholas Cochran, his  
37 half-brother Fritz Baier, his nieces and nephews, and countless others that considered him a dear  
38 friend; and

39       Whereas SP4 Cochran will always be remembered for his thoughtfulness and generosity of spirit,  
40 and he was loved by his family, his friends, his fellow soldiers, his Philomath High School classmates  
41 and his country; now, therefore,

42 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

43       That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Specialist  
44 Four Paul Jefferey "Jeff" Cochran for his service to his country.