

**Enrolled**  
**House Concurrent Resolution 28**

Sponsored by Representative WHISNANT, Senator KNOPP, Representative BUEHLER; Representative ESQUIVEL

Whereas United States Air Force First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens was born to Dr. Jim and Sharon Wilkens on February 7, 1986, in Bend, Oregon; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens was raised and homeschooled in Bend, graduating in 2005; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens, a born pilot who had obtained his glider license at the age of 14 and his pilot's license at the age of 16, entered the United States Air Force Academy; and

Whereas in 2009, First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens graduated from the academy and received his commission in the United States Air Force; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens joined the Air Force because he loved his country, loved to fly and wanted to live with courage to fight for the good and defend those needing protection; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens was a combat systems officer assigned to 34th Special Operations Squadron, 1st Special Operations Group, 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field, Florida; and

Whereas on his third deployment, First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens was one of four crew members serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on a special forces U-28A aircraft tasked to aid in the detection and disruption of violent extremist organizations in the Horn of Africa; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens and his three fellow crew members died on February 18, 2012, when the aircraft was involved in an accident near Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, on its return from a mission; and

Whereas at the time of his death, First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens had flown over 400 combat hours; and

Whereas those who knew him best spoke of First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens as talented, brave, reliable, intelligent and extremely outgoing and friendly and will always remember him as, in the words of a fellow pilot, "an extraordinary guy who lived life to the fullest"; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens was survived by his parents, Dr. Jim and Sharon Wilkens, his sisters, Brittany and Cameron, and his brother, Jason; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens for his service to his country.

Adopted by House April 25, 2017

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 31, 2017

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate