

SCR 3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: C. Ross, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Honor Radarman 2nd Class Garry Hodgson (1937-1969).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Radarman 2nd Class Garry Bradbury Hodgson was born on July 16, 1937, in Chewelah, Washington. He grew up in Gladstone, Oregon and attended West Linn High School. He enlisted in the United States Navy and commenced duty at sea in March of 1960. He married Gwendolyn Chambers on January 22, 1966, and together they raised five children, Alan, Damon, Gari, Mark and Sean. He was an excellent radarman with a great sense of humor, and was highly regarded by his shipmates, who knew him as "Hodge." He began serving on the destroyer USS *Frank E. Evans* in 1963, and on June 3, 1969, while the *Frank E. Evans* was on a Southeast Asia Treaty Organization maneuver, it was struck by the aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne*. The collision cut the *Frank E. Evans* in half and 74 lives were lost, including Hodge's. The *Frank E. Evans* was deployed in support of the Vietnam War effort, but since it was operating outside of the designated combat zone, the names of the 74 crew members who lost their lives that day are not listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The USS *Frank E. Evans* Association was formed and began working to honor each of the "Lost 74" in communities in their respective home states. The rose garden of American Legion Post 21 in McMinnville, Oregon, was selected as the location for a memorial to honor Radarman 2nd Class Hodgson and his shipmates. On July 8, 2017, a dedication ceremony for the memorial was held to remember and honor the brave "Lost 74," including a gun salute by a color guard. Radarman 2nd Class Hodgson has also been honored by Yamhill County, the City of McMinnville, and by a headstone memorial in Willamette National Cemetery. He was lost at sea, but his name rightly appears on the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Senate Concurrent Resolution recognizes and honors Radarman 2nd Class Garry Bradbury Hodgson - Hodge - and his friends and shipmates, the "Lost 74," of the USS *Frank E. Evans*, for their service to their country.