

## HCR 16 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

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**Prepared By:** C. Ross, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 4/17

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Recognizes and honors firefighter Allen Lindskog for his service to Polk County and the State of Oregon.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Allen Lindskog began his firefighting career in 1979 as a volunteer in Independence, Oregon, and immediately proved to be consistent, capable and reliable. In three years he completed all required steps for firefighter certification as an engineer. He excelled as an engineer and was committed to serving in that capacity for 35 years despite being offered promotions and other opportunities. In 1984 he became a certified emergency medical technician, after which, in addition to responding to fires and motor vehicle accidents, he began signing-up for overnight, on-call duty to respond to medical emergencies in an ambulance. When the Independence Fire Department merged with other departments in the area in 1985 creating Polk County Fire District No. 1, Allen Lindskog continued to serve the larger community and maintained nearly perfect drill attendance. He has received many honors over the years, including awards as both the top fire responder and the top emergency medical services responder, the Night Owl award for the most evening responses, and the Chief's Award. In March 2003, one of the fire district's engines crashed, killing Captain Tom Kistler, one of Allen's closest friends, but his commitment and dedication never wavered. His steady presence and attitude were a source of strength and inspiration to the entire organization. Even after he retires, Allen will continue to care for the section of roadway dedicated to Captain Kistler. In the past five years, when many firefighters his age have already transitioned into retirement, Allen has averaged more than 120 hours of training and 100 emergency responses per year. His colleagues, all of whom are younger, observe that he is physically more capable as a firefighter than most 20-year-olds. Many members of the community may not know him by name, but Allen has been there, in their worst moments and times of need, doing his utmost to make things better. Despite his preference to avoid formal appointment into a leadership position, Allen Lindskog became one of the most vital, influential and respected leaders the fire district has ever had. He decided to retire in January 2019, after 39 years of selfless service that has impacted thousands of lives and made his community a better and safer place.

House Concurrent Resolution honors firefighter Allen Lindskog for his long a faithful service, and expresses gratitude on behalf of Polk County and the people of the State of Oregon.

*Unanimous out of House committee and off the House floor.*