

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 30

Sponsored by Representative MEEK; Representatives BYNUM, KENY-GUYER

Whereas Ricky John Best was born on February 7, 1964; and

Whereas Ricky John Best grew up in Oregon, mostly in Salem, and attended Vocational Village High School in Portland; and

Whereas Ricky John Best attended Portland Community College, where he met his future wife, Myhanh Duong Best; and

Whereas Ricky John Best served in the United States Army for 23 years, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas Ricky John Best was an outstanding soldier who served his country with honor and distinction, and he retired from the Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant; and

Whereas after retiring from the Army, Ricky John Best resided with his family in Happy Valley, Oregon; and

Whereas in 2014, Ricky John Best was a candidate for Clackamas County commissioner; and

Whereas in January 2015, Ricky John Best began working for the City of Portland, where he was a dedicated employee in the Bureau of Development Services who was widely respected and liked by his colleagues; and

Whereas on the afternoon of May 26, 2017, while aboard a Metropolitan Area Express (MAX) train approaching Hollywood Transit Center in Portland, a stranger began screaming anti-Muslim sentiments and verbally harassing two young women, one of whom was wearing a hijab; and

Whereas Ricky John Best was on that MAX train, returning home to his family, and he and two fellow passengers, Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche and Micah David-Cole Fletcher, selflessly intervened in the increasingly frightening situation, coming to the aid of the two young women and attempting to placate the stranger; and

Whereas the stranger viciously attacked all three men with a knife, wounding Fletcher and killing Best and Namkai-Meche; and

Whereas Best, Namkai-Meche and Fletcher acted with courage and conviction, without regard for their own personal safety, standing up to hate and coming to the aid of others; and

Whereas tributes to Best, Namkai-Meche and Fletcher poured in from all over the world, and thousands of people gathered at candlelight vigils to pay their respects and to leave tokens of appreciation at a spontaneous memorial at Hollywood Transit Center; and

Whereas a permanent memorial at Hollywood Transit Center, in the form of a mural titled “We Choose Love,” now honors Best, Namkai-Meche and Fletcher and pays tribute to their strength and courage; and

Whereas Ricky John Best “couldn’t just stand by and do nothing” and he “died fighting the good fight, protecting the innocent,” in the words of his son Erik; and

Whereas Ricky John Best’s funeral was held at Christ the King Catholic Church in Milwaukie, Oregon, and his three teenage sons helped to lift his casket into the hearse; and

Whereas the funeral procession to the cemetery was led by a police escort and first responders and members of the public lined the streets to honor Ricky John Best; and

Whereas Ricky John Best was laid to rest with military honors at Willamette National Cemetery; and

Whereas Ricky John Best was a devoted and loving husband and father who is survived by his wife, Myhanh, his daughter, Tramanh, and his three sons, Erik, Isaac and David; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Ricky John Best and we express our gratitude for his selfless heroism on behalf of his fellow Oregonians; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Ricky John Best as an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

Adopted by House May 8, 2019

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate June 11, 2019

Peter Courtney, President of Senate