

SCR 2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Prepared By: Regina Wilson, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Acknowledges the life of Patrick James Simpson, Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army (retired).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Patrick James Simpson, retired Lieutenant Colonel, and his twin brother, were born on August 3, 1940 in Ashland, Oregon. He and his brother participated in the Reserve Officer's Training Corps and were commissioned in the United States Army in 1962 as infantry officers. Lt. Col. Simpson was assigned to the division staff of the 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division in the Republic of Vietnam in 1966 for five months then assumed command of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, for nearly seven months, until completion of his tour of duty in July 1967. In October of 1968, following service at Fort Polk, Louisiana, Lt. Col. Simpson returned for a second tour in Vietnam with the Americal Division, where he served as an assistant battalion operations officer and on the division staff.

Lt. Col. Simpson earned a master's degree at Indiana University. He served as a physical education instructor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, from 1974 to 1977 where he taught boxing and was involved in the integration of women into the Corps of Cadets in 1976. Lt. Col. Simpson retired from the Army in November 1988 after 26 years of distinguished service, having earned numerous medals and commendations, including the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, four Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, Air Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab and Parachutist Badge.

Following retirement, Lt. Col. Simpson and his family moved to Eugene, Oregon, where he spent a year updating his teaching credentials at the University of Oregon, and began his second career as a popular substitute teacher for 20 years, primarily at Cottage Grove High School. He was active in numerous community organizations and was instrumental in bringing the Moving Wall Vietnam Veterans Memorial to Eugene for four days, attended by thousands of veterans and others that raised awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Lt. Col. Simpson enjoyed spending time with his family, playing cards, competing at fantasy football and canning jams, jellies and award-winning dill pickles. He passed away unexpectedly on July 2, 2019 and was laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery with full military honors. Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 honors the life and service of Lt. Col. Patrick James Simpson to his nation, state, and community.