

## HCR 202 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Rules

---

**Prepared By:** Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/3, 2/8

---

#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes and honors retired Oregon State Police Sergeant John Burrigh (1959-2021) for his service to this state.

*FISCAL: No fiscal impact.*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact.*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Law enforcement service of Sergeant Burrigh and his family
- Legacy of service to his family and the state, law enforcement, and local community

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

Oregon State Police Sergeant John Burrigh was born on October 28, 1959, to Helen and Kenneth Burrigh. He grew up in Corvallis, Oregon, with his older siblings Dave and Mary, and graduated from Crescent Valley High School in 1978.

Sergeant Burrigh attended Oregon State University and, while enrolled as a student, he worked as a security officer. Fourteen members of the Burrigh family currently work or have formerly worked in careers involving law enforcement. Sergeant Burrigh followed multiple family members into law enforcement, including his father, Ken, and his brother, Dave, a former Linn County Sheriff.

Sergeant Burrigh joined the Oregon State Police (OSP) in 1987 at age 27. He began working out of the Roseburg OSP office. Sergeant Burrigh transferred to the Albany OSP office in 1989 and later transferred to the Salem office. In 1995, Sergeant Burrigh attended the State of Oregon's first school in the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program, and in 1996, he became certified as an expert and served as an instructor in the DRE school. During Sergeant Burrigh's 14-year OSP career, he served in the Patrol Division and the Criminal Division, and he was one of the original members of the Mobile Response Team.

In 1996, Sergeant Burrigh was awarded the OSP's Holly V. Holcomb Award for heroism, with fellow OSP trooper and good friend Rich Pileggi and OSP Lieutenant Chuck Hayes, for pulling a man from a burning vehicle. In 2001, Sergeant Burrigh received the OSP's trooper of the year award.

Sergeant Burrigh was a courageous and dedicated professional who shared his sense of humor with all those with whom he came into contact. He was a devoted and loving husband to Rhonda, father to three sons—Kyle, Jeremy and Nolan—and grandfather to Jace and Ari. Sergeant Burrigh loved playing all types of sports, and he worked hard to keep his fitness at a very high level. He enjoyed camping and fishing with his family and friends.

The lives of Sergeant Burrigh and those closest to him were forever changed on September 4, 2001. On that evening, Sergeant Burrigh, OSP Senior Trooper Maria Mignano, and Officer Jason Hoerauf of the Albany Police Department were struck by a vehicle on Interstate-5 near Albany as they were assisting a family whose van had broken down on the highway. Senior Trooper Mignano and Officer Hoerauf were killed instantly, and Sergeant Burrigh sustained critical injuries from which he never recovered and which caused him to medically retire in

## HCR 202 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

2002.

From December 2001 to May 4, 2021, Sergeant Burrighr received around-the-clock care from a private care facility in Albany. His wife recalls that he had the ability to comprehend everything in his surroundings and that he was able to hear and communicate through facial expressions, eye rolls, and laughter. Sergeant Burrighr was fully aware that he was well taken care and loved by his family, friends, and the entire staff who tended to him at the care facility.

Sergeant Burrighr fought for his life with toughness and bravery, and his tremendous physical fitness played a role in his survival. Sergeant Burrighr died on May 4, 2021, almost 20 years after he sustained his traumatic injuries.

OSP officials attributed Sergeant Burrighr's early death to the injuries he sustained on September 4, 2001, and they designated his passing as a "line of duty" death. Sergeant Burrighr was the 34th OSP trooper to die in the line of duty. On April 21, 2016, in a dedication ceremony held outside the new OSP headquarters building, a Salem street was named in honor of Sergeant Burrighr.

Sergeant Burrighr is survived by his wife and their three sons, two grandchildren, his mother, his brother, his sister, and many other family members, friends, and colleagues who honor him. He was a dedicated law enforcement officer who served the people of the State of Oregon with honor and distinction.

House Concurrent Resolution 202 recognizes and honors Oregon State Police Sergeant John Burrighr for his service to this state.