

House Concurrent Resolution 204

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON RULES (at the request of Representative Mark Owens)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Recognizes and honors Sergeant John Noble Holcomb (1946-1968) for his service to his country.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Sergeant John Noble Holcomb was born on June 11, 1946, in Baker City, Oregon, the
3 seat of Baker County; and

4 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb attended elementary schools in Baker County and was a 1964
5 graduate of Eagle Valley High School in Richland, Oregon; and

6 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb enlisted in the United States Army in Corvallis, Oregon, in 1966;
7 and

8 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb began his tour of duty in Vietnam on March 23, 1968; and

9 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb was assigned to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment,
10 1st Cavalry Division; and

11 Whereas during an enemy attack on December 3, 1968, near Quan Loi Base Camp, Binh Long
12 Province, Republic of Vietnam, during Operation Sheridan Sabre, Sergeant Holcomb led his squad
13 in the defense of their position; and

14 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb, with complete disregard for heavy enemy fire, moved among his
15 men, giving encouragement and directing fire on the assaulting enemy; and

16 Whereas when their machine gunner was wounded, Sergeant Holcomb seized the weapon and
17 ran to a forward edge of their position and placed withering fire on the enemy; and

18 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb's gallant actions caused the enemy to withdraw, and Sergeant
19 Holcomb treated the wounded and carried them to a position of safety before reorganizing his de-
20 fensive sector, despite a raging grass fire ignited by incoming mortar and rocket rounds; and

21 Whereas the enemy assaulted the position a second time and Sergeant Holcomb again manned
22 the forward machine gun, devastating the enemy attack and forcing the enemy to again break con-
23 tact and withdraw; and

24 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb's position was hit by an enemy rocket, destroying his machine gun
25 and severely wounding him; and

26 Whereas despite his painful wounds, Sergeant Holcomb crawled through the grass fire and ex-
27 ploding mortar and rocket rounds to move the members of his squad, each of whom had been
28 wounded, to more secure positions; and

29 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb was the last surviving leader of his platoon, and he organized his
30 men to repel the enemy; and

31 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb crawled to the platoon radio and reported the third enemy assault
32 on his position, which brought friendly supporting fire to bear on the charging enemy and broke up

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 the enemy attack; and

2 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb perished from his wounds later that day; and

3 Whereas in 1971, Sergeant Holcomb was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's
4 highest decoration for valor in combat; and

5 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and oak
6 leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, Purple
7 Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge and Vietnam Service Medal; and

8 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb was buried at Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland and he is honored
9 on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and

10 Whereas Sergeant Holcomb was an outstanding leader who served his country with honor, dis-
11 tinction and selfless devotion to duty; now, therefore,

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

13 That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Medal of
14 Honor recipient Sergeant John Noble Holcomb for his heroism and service to his country.

15
