

Submitter: Jessuca Sutherland
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SCR13

I am Woody Whetstone's Great Grand Daughter. I have been working on getting a memorial made in honor of my Grandfather for many years. There was a committee set up who was working on this and in 2016 I talked with Bob Morris about continuing our mission to get a memorial established. Bob Morris made me a promise that he would help me.

My grandfather always dreamed of becoming a police officer. His wife, my great grandmother was afraid for him to become a police officer in fear he would be killed. After years of talking about it my Grandfather joined the police force serving in Albany, Oregon and in Junction City, Oregon. He served his community with honor and was well respected. On December 26, 1960, A woman shows up at my Grand parents house help asking for help as her ex boyfriend followed her there. He was threatening them with a shotgun. My grandfather tried to get the subject to put down the gun. When he knew he wasn't going to so my grandfather went to pull his weapon but the subject shot him in the chest killing him instantly in front of my grandmother. The woman's boyfriend was shot and killed and the woman was shot in the shoulder as she ran into my grandparents house where my grandmother was hit in the leg with pellets. My dad's baby picture was in grandpa's pocket that day and it had blood stains on it. He always carried my daddy's picture in his pocket. Grandpa's life and death has always had an impact on the family. The loss of him was great. The memories he left behind and the impact on the community was a great loss. To this day there are few remaining people left who knew him personally. They was young kids in then 1960s but they tell of stories how my grandpa took time to wave at them or talk to them. They remember the community going after the "bad man" who took my grandpa's life. There are so many stories about my Grandfather that I could share but there isn't enough time to share it all. He was a great man and in my heart he's a Hero. I am proud to be his Grand Daughter. I would love to see him honored as he gave his life serving a community he loved.