

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 213

Sponsored by Senators WEBER, CAMPOS, Representative JAVADI; Senators FINDLEY, FREDERICK, GELSER BLOUIN, GORSEK, HANSELL, MANNING JR, MEEK, SMITH DB, THATCHER, WOODS, Representatives BOICE, BOSHART DAVIS, EVANS, GOMBERG, GRAYBER, HIEB, HOLVEY, LEVY B, MANNIX, MCLAIN, NELSON, RESCHKE, STOUT, WRIGHT (Presession filed.)

Whereas United States Army Specialist Ken “Kenny” Leisten was born in Santa Rosa, California, on July 5, 1984; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten moved from San Diego, California, to Washington County, Oregon, with his father, Ken Leisten Sr., and stepmother, Lisa LaBlanc, at age seven, and spent the majority of his life in Washington County, Oregon; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten attended Forest Grove High School in Forest Grove, Oregon; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten chose to become a member of the Oregon National Guard in Corvallis, Oregon, during a time of war, serving with the 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten worked full time as a clerk in the maintenance department at Camp Rilea in Warrenton, Oregon, ensuring equipment readiness; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten volunteered to attend training to reclass to 11B Infantryman for deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom II; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten was awarded an Army Commendation Medal with Valor for maintaining radio communication with the Tactical Operations Center during an intense ambush involving small arms fire and improvised explosive devices; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten was killed in action on July 28, 2004, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device while on combat patrol in Taji, Iraq; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten’s loss was felt deeply by his family, his friends and his fellow soldiers; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten was laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon, on August 9, 2004; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten was survived by his father, Ken Sr., his stepmother, Lisa, his grandmother, Trudy Griffin, aunts and uncles Linda and Rich Saffiote, Jenny and Bill Audrain, and Kathy and Allen Leisten and cousins Alex, Angela, Alecia, Adam, Jake and Kelly; and

Whereas Specialist Leisten’s selfless devotion to duty exemplified the spirit and values of the United States Army; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, celebrate the life of United States Army Specialist Ken “Kenny” Leisten, and we recognize and honor his dedication to serving his community, his state and his country.

Adopted by Senate March 4, 2024

Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House March 7, 2024

Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House