

Submitter: Lee Carrar
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SCR213

While it's obviously imperative to honor SPC Leisten's ultimate sacrifice, attention must also focus on the sacrifices he continually made. Having served multiple tours in Iraq, to include the very area he died, I'm very familiar of the deadly risks he faced everyday. His PSG MSG Jaques (he is who you need to really hear from) spoke at SPC Leisten's memorial ceremony. He spoke of SPC Leisten having experienced the viciousness of the insurgents, performed exemplary, without question and with a positive attitude (many times on multiple missions in a day). While you might not think age matters, he was only 20 years old and essentially sacrificed his entire life ahead of him for his fellow Soldiers, Oregon and the United States of America. As a note, since it has been nearly 20 years, many Soldiers have died, are no longer in the area or no longer in regular contact. Considering it took 20 years, giving a short suspense makes it even more than problematic. Hopefully you take that into consideration if not many testimonies are not submitted. Also, it would be an incredible thing if these types of committees would allow even just a couple of us to testify in person, this way you could feel the emotion and not judge off of emotionless emails, texts, etc. Lastly, I do appreciate the consideration of SPC Leisten. Hopefully, more of our Heroes are to be considered in the near future.