

**HCR 38 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Carrier:** Sen. Starr**Senate Committee On Rules****Action Date:** 06/12/25**Action:** Do adopt.**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Bonham, Golden, Jama, Manning Jr, Thatcher**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 6/12**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure recognizes and honors Deputy Paul Emerson Baker for his service to this state.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The life, service, and legacy of Deputy Paul Emerson Baker.

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Deputy Paul Emerson Baker was born on March 6, 1928, in Hutchinson, Kansas, to Harold and Edith Baker. He had two brothers. He moved from Kansas to California with his family and graduated from Leuzinger High School.

Deputy Baker began his public service career in 1945, when he was accepted into the United States Merchant Marine. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War and deployed overseas for combat duty in August 1951. He was wounded by shrapnel on October 6, 1951, at Heartbreak Ridge in North Korea.

Deputy Baker received numerous military awards for his service, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal with two battle stars, United Nations Service Medal Korea, Presidential Unit Citation, and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

Deputy Baker began his law enforcement career by joining the police department in Hawthorne, California, where he served for two years. He met his future wife, Carmen E. Jacobsen, when he issued her a ticket for speeding.

Deputy Baker married Carmen on October 16, 1954, and together they had six children: Paula Marie Baker, Ronald Paul Baker, Carla Rose (Baker) Alder, Loretta Jean (Baker) Aker, Monica Lynn Baker, and Rita Ann Baker.

Deputy Baker joined the California Highway Patrol in January 1957, and he served the agency for 17 years.

Deputy Baker and his family moved to Oregon in 1976. In September 1979, he resumed his law enforcement career as a civil deputy with the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Baker was traveling across a bridge on Highway 99W across the Yamhill River on January 21, 1982, when his patrol truck was struck head-on by another vehicle. He succumbed the following day to the injuries he sustained in the crash. Deputy Baker was 53 years old at the time of his death.

Deputy Baker was laid to rest in St. James Cemetery in McMinnville, Oregon. He had many hobbies and interests, including basketball, baseball, bowling, water skiing, golfing, camping, and riding his Honda Gold Wing motorcycle across the country with his wife.

Deputy Baker was a member of his local chapter of Lions Club International. He enjoyed working on his five-acre farm, which consisted of cherry and walnut trees, cows, sheep, chickens, and an immaculate vegetable garden.

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*

## **HCR 38 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

Deputy Baker was a dedicated law enforcement officer who faithfully served the people of the States of California and Oregon, and he served in the United States military with great honor and distinction. He was widely loved and respected, and many years after his death, he is still greatly missed by his family and friends.