

A-Engrossed
House Concurrent Resolution 16

Ordered by the House March 7
Including House Amendments dated March 7

Sponsored by Representative GOMBERG

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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: Honors the life and service of Specialist Four Paul Cochran. (Flesch Readability Score: 69.7).

Recognizes and honors Specialist Four Paul [*Jefferey*] **Jeffrey** "Jeff" Cochran (1947-1968) for his service to his country.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas United States Army Specialist Four (SP4) Paul Jeffrey "Jeff" Cochran was born on
3 October 6, 1947, to Beverly Cochran-Durham; and

4 Whereas SP4 Cochran's friends and peers called him Paul, but to his family, he was "Jeff"; and

5 Whereas during a Christmastime visit to Santa Claus when he was a young boy, the only thing
6 SP4 Cochran asked for was a new fridge for his mom's apartment, demonstrating the thoughtfulness
7 that would define him throughout his life; and

8 Whereas in 1964, SP4 Cochran moved in with his grandparents, Paul and Marguerite Cochran,
9 and lived with them at their home at 1545 College Street in Philomath, Oregon, until 1966; and

10 Whereas SP4 Cochran began attending Philomath High School in 1965, and he joined the
11 school's baseball team, the Philomath Warriors, that same year; and

12 Whereas during a legendary April 28, 1965, ball game against Salem Academy, SP4 Cochran
13 pitched a 3-hitter and struck out 13 batters, giving the Warriors a critical edge on their way to a
14 6-1 victory over Salem; and

15 Whereas by the time of his graduation in 1966, SP4 Cochran had played high school baseball
16 and football, participated in speech competitions, acted in the school play and served as the
17 Sergeant at Arms for his class's student council; and

18 Whereas in the months following graduation, SP4 Cochran spent his days deep in thought,
19 driving around Philomath in his 1957 Ford Thunderbird and contemplating what his future might
20 hold; and

21 Whereas over the course of that summer, SP4 Cochran came to the realization that he wanted
22 to be part of something bigger than himself, and in the fall of 1966, he enlisted in the United States
23 Army, attending basic training at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington; and

24 Whereas in the spring of 1967, SP4 Cochran attended United States Army Airborne School at
25 Fort Benning, Georgia, where he earned his "Jump Wings" and became a paratrooper; and

26 Whereas SP4 Cochran joined the 101st Airborne Division, known affectionately as the
27 "Screaming Eagles," at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and in December 1967, he was deployed to South

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 Vietnam; and

2 Whereas SP4 Cochran was well respected for his prowess as a soldier, but to his platoon mates,
3 he was a stalwart friend and a brother; and

4 Whereas during his time in Vietnam, SP4 Cochran earned the National Defense Service Medal,
5 the Vietnam Service Medal and the Expert Rifleman Badge; and

6 Whereas in a letter to his grandmother Marguerite dated March 20, 1968, SP4 Cochran pondered
7 whether the blossoms in Philomath were yet in bloom; and

8 Whereas on May 1, 1968, SP4 Cochran was killed during combat operations in Thua Thien
9 Province, South Vietnam; and

10 Whereas SP4 Cochran knew that serving his country was what he was meant to do, and he gave
11 his life to uphold that destiny; and

12 Whereas SP4 Cochran's awards and decorations that were posthumously awarded to his grand-
13 mother Marguerite included the Bronze Star Medal with Oakleaf Cluster for meritorious service, the
14 Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge; and

15 Whereas SP4 Cochran was buried in 1968 at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland,
16 Oregon; and

17 Whereas the Paul J. Cochran Memorial Scholarship was established at Philomath High School
18 in 1968 to honor SP4 Cochran's sacrifice, and it was awarded to its first recipient, graduating senior
19 Ben Beddingfield, that June; and

20 Whereas SP4 Cochran's name appears on panel 53E, line 29, of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
21 in Washington, D.C.; and

22 Whereas on August 5, 2018, 50 years after SP4 Cochran's death, his loving mother Beverly
23 passed away; and

24 Whereas in February 2019, Shane Cochran-Fritz, SP4 Cochran's sister and executor of their
25 mother's estate, came to Philomath City Hall and revealed that Beverly's final wish was that the
26 property at 1545 College Street be donated to the City of Philomath in order to create a memorial
27 park further honoring SP4 Cochran's sacrifice; and

28 Whereas Beverly wished for the park to become a communal space where people could gather
29 together to reflect on the human cost of war; and

30 Whereas in accordance with Beverly's wishes, the City of Philomath demolished the home at
31 1545 College Street on August 15, 2020, making way for the park to come; and

32 Whereas the City of Philomath was awarded a Veterans and War Memorial Grant from the State
33 Parks and Recreation Department in 2022 for a granite memorial to be erected at the park; and

34 Whereas construction of the Paul J. Cochran Veterans Memorial Park began in August 2023;
35 and

36 Whereas the Paul J. Cochran Veterans Memorial Park dedication took place on November 9,
37 2024, and Shane Cochran-Fritz had the honor of cutting the ribbon and officially opening the park
38 to the public; and

39 Whereas SP4 Cochran is survived by Shane Cochran-Fritz, his brother Nicholas Cochran, his
40 half-brother Fritz Baier, his nieces and nephews, and countless others that considered him a dear
41 friend; and

42 Whereas SP4 Cochran will always be remembered for his thoughtfulness and generosity of spirit,
43 and he was loved by his family, his friends, his fellow soldiers, his Philomath High School classmates
44 and his country; now, therefore,

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

1 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Specialist
2 Four Paul Jeffrey "Jeff" Cochran for his service to his country.
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