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To: Rep.ChristineDrazan@oregonlegislature.gov
Subject: HCR16

Representative Drazan and House Committee:

I am writing in support of the Oregon Congress HCR16 to recognize and honor Paul Jeffrey Cochran for his service and sacrifice to our country.

Paul, as he was known to his classmates, was two years ahead of me at Philomath High School. There were 74 graduates in Paul's class of 1966, and there were 68 graduates in my class in 1968. Being such a small school, students got to know their fellow students pretty well.

I loved playing high school sports and I enjoyed playing football and baseball alongside Paul. He was a competitor on the field and a great teammate off the field. In May 2024 Paul's gold star family was honored at a Philomath High School home baseball game.

In looking back at my high school yearbooks I found a picture of a thoughtful Paul Cochran entitled "The Thinker". He was also a class officer his senior year. We were on the student council together as I was a sophomore class officer.

Recently I was reading through some Remembrances submitted to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and saw a reference to an idea that Paul and some platoon mates had to return home after their service and tour the country in '69 Camaro's. I was happy to read this as I drove a '67 Camaro at the time.

Paul Cochran was killed in action in Vietnam on May 1, 1968. I graduated from high school several weeks later and the Paul Jeffrey Cochran Memorial Scholarship had been quickly established. I was very honored to have been the first recipient of that scholarship.

SP4 Paul Jeffrey Cochran was buried in Willamette National Cemetery in Portland. I have visited his gravesite while I was visiting my father-in-law's burial spot in the same cemetery. Dwight Grass was a retired Navy radioman who was also an Administrator in the Philomath School District.

In conclusion, I am very happy to have known Paul Jeffrey Cochran as a classmate, teammate and also a friend.

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