

# D R A F T

## SUMMARY

Recognizes and honors Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson (1974-2003) for his service to his country.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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Whereas Army Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson was born on March 10, 1974, in San Jose, California, and was raised by M.J. and Clay Kesterson; and

Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson graduated from Vernonia High School in 1992 and joined the United States Marine Corps on October 19, 1992, serving as a UH-1 crew chief for 101 months and achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant, and also working as a gunner on Huey and Cobra helicopters; and

Whereas on September 12, 2000, a Huey helicopter on which Warrant Officer Kesterson was serving as crew chief and gunner crashed and burst into flames, and Warrant Officer Kesterson pulled seven of his fellow Marines out of the burning aircraft before it exploded; and

Whereas in 2001, Warrant Officer Kesterson left the Marine Corps and went to work for Evergreen International Aviation, Inc., in McMinnville; and

Whereas only 10 months after Warrant Officer Kesterson left the Marine Corps, the September 11 attacks occurred, and Warrant Officer Kesterson decided to join the United States Army to become a pilot of Black Hawk helicopters; and

Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson qualified for the Warrant Officer

**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 Flight Training Program and became a Black Hawk helicopter pilot for the  
2 101st Airborne Division; and

3 Whereas in April 2002, Warrant Officer Kesterson completed Warrant  
4 Officer Candidate School, initial entry rotary-wing flight training and the  
5 UH-60 qualification course; and

6 Whereas on November 7, 2003, Warrant Officer Kesterson deployed to  
7 Mosul, Iraq, with B Company, 9th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st  
8 Airborne Division; and

9 Whereas on November 15, 2003, Warrant Officer Kesterson was killed  
10 when his helicopter went down in Iraq while bringing in a Stryker team to  
11 support troops under fire; and

12 Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson has been awarded the Bronze Star  
13 Medal, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal and several other medals for his  
14 faithful duty while serving in the United States Army and the United States  
15 Marine Corps; and

16 Whereas those who knew Warrant Officer Kesterson knew that he was  
17 born to serve; and

18 Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson loved his country and never wanted  
19 to do anything other than to serve it, choosing not to have children because  
20 he knew his job was dangerous and he did not want his children to grow up  
21 without a father; and

22 Whereas Warrant Officer Kesterson is survived by his parents, M.J. and  
23 Clay, and his birth mother, Delores Kesterson; now, therefore,

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

25 That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, recog-  
26 nize and honor Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson for his service to  
27 his country.

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