



Office of Representative Dacia Grayber

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## **House Veterans Committee recognizes Dick Tobiason, Oregon Veteran, for a Lifetime of Service**

**SALEM, Ore.** - The House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans has introduced and passed House Concurrent Resolution 202 recognizing retired Lieutenant Colonel Dick Tobiason for a lifetime of dedicated service honoring Oregon's Veterans, Medal of Honor recipients, and Gold Star families.

"I'm thrilled that we have the opportunity to introduce this 2024 House Resolution. The level of work and service Lt. Col. Tobiason has done to honor and care for Veterans in this state is both humbling and inspirational," said Committee Chair **Dacia Grayber (D-SW Portland)**.

During January's Legislative Committee Days, Representative Grayber announced HCR 202 alongside Vice-Chair **Rick Lewis (R-Silverton)** who shared gratitude for Mr. Tobiason's work. Mr. Tobiason attended the meeting virtually and learned of the resolution as a surprise to him. He then returned the attention to Oregon's veteran community, sharing updates on his foundation's most recent work, which committee members noted was in keeping with Mr. Tobiason's approach to a lifetime spent recognizing fellow service members.

"Honoring Dick Tobiason's tireless efforts to recognize and honor veterans and their families is long overdue," said Vice-Chair Lewis. "Of the many advocates for veterans past and present, Dick stands out. He has made it his life's work to ensure veterans and their families get the recognition they deserve. His efforts, his tenacity and his relentless advocacy on behalf of Oregon veterans and their families is unparalleled."

Since 1985, Lt. Col. (Ret) Tobiason has been a community leader through the work of his non-profit, "Bend Heroes Foundation," which has helped Oregon adopt laws honoring nearly one-half million Oregon Veterans. As Chairman and Founder, he led the Bend Heroes Foundation in opening Veterans Village in Central Oregon, a safe rest village that helps homeless Veterans move into permanent housing and stable employment. Most recently, he led

efforts to designate Gold Star memorial highways in Oregon as part of a larger national effort designating coast-to-coast highways honoring Veterans and their families.

"For decades, Lt. Col. Tobiason has been a tireless champion for the veteran community in Central Oregon and the entire state," said Representative **Jason Kropf (D-Bend)**. "He and the Bend Heroes Foundation have done incredible work supporting our living veterans and remembering and honoring all those who have served. This honor is much deserved and a testament to his lifetime of service."

"Dick Tobiason has spent his life in retirement honoring Veterans," added Senate Minority Leader **Tim Knopp (R-Bend)**. "He is an incredible person that cares for people. It has been my honor to partner with Dick, the Oregon Veteran community and many legislators to honor so many Veterans in so many ways. It's time to honor Dick Tobiason for his selfless commitment to our Veterans."

HCR 202 now advances to the House Floor for a full vote of the chamber.

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