

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 202

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Rules for Representative Andy Olson)

Whereas First Lieutenant Frederick E. Pokorney, Jr., was born in Oakland, California, on August 20, 1971; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney excelled in football and basketball before graduating from Tonopah High School in Nevada in 1989; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney enrolled at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, on a football scholarship before an ankle injury ended his football career and led him to find his passion for the United States Marine Corps; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1993 and finished at the top of his boot camp class; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney, while stationed at Naval Submarine Base Bangor, met his future wife, who encouraged his application to the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP), which provides a pathway for outstanding Marine Corps enlisted personnel to become commissioned officers; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney was accepted into MECEP and enrolled at Oregon State University, where he studied political science and history and fell in love with Oregon, which he came to consider his home; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney visited Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day in 2000 and, after watching the President of the United States lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, said to his family, "Please bury me here should anything happen to me, as I cannot think of a greater honor than to be buried in these sacred grounds"; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney was commissioned a second lieutenant in 2001 and deployed to Iraq in 2003 with the 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, serving as an artillery forward observer; and

Whereas on March 23, 2003, in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah, Iraq, First Lieutenant Pokorney's unit was ambushed, but despite heavy and sustained enemy fire, he showed great courage in expertly directing and coordinating artillery fire from his exposed position before being mortally wounded; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney died two years to the day after he was commissioned a Marine Corps officer and was awarded a posthumous Silver Star for his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy" and his display of "courage under fire during the engagement through rapid decision-making and confident actions"; and

Whereas many who served with First Lieutenant Pokorney have testified to his bravery, skill and selfless sacrifice, which saved the lives of many of his fellow Marines, including Ben Williams, whom he personally rescued while under harrowing enemy fire; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney was a brave and proud Marine who was known by all as a "gentle giant" and a dedicated and loving family man; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney enjoyed playing basketball and spending time on the Oregon coast, where he often could be found fishing, crabbing, camping, diving and riding bikes with his wife; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney was a valued and important member of the Corvallis community, where he volunteered selflessly, built the obstacle course for the Oregon State University

Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program and starred for the Good Samaritan Hospital recreational league basketball team; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney, in accordance with his wishes, was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on April 14, 2003; and

Whereas First Lieutenant Pokorney is survived by his wife Carolyn "Chelle" and daughter Taylor, both of whom he loved dearly, and will be forever remembered by those who knew him; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor First Lieutenant Frederick E. Pokorney, Jr., for his service to his country.

Adopted by House February 12, 2018

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate February 28, 2018

Peter Courtney, President of Senate