
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4003

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 1st Special Session

By Representatives Lytton, Hayes, Ryu, Morris, Freeman, Kristiansen,
and McCoy

Read first time 06/05/13. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 TO THE HONORABLE LYNN PETERSON, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, AND TO
2 THE WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, AND TO THE WASHINGTON
3 STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

4 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
6 represent and petition as follows:

7 WHEREAS, The more than 600 uniformed members of the Washington
8 State Patrol are our state's most ubiquitous first responders--law-
9 enforcement professionals dedicated to the safety of Washington's
10 citizens as we go about our daily lives; and

11 WHEREAS, These Troopers routinely place themselves in difficult and
12 dangerous situations to protect the lives and property of individual
13 citizens and the good working order of our communities and the state as
14 a whole; and

15 WHEREAS, This selflessness was clearly evident in the aftermath of
16 the sudden and catastrophic collapse of a portion of the Skagit River
17 Bridge on Interstate 5 the evening of Thursday, May 23, 2013; and

18 WHEREAS, Trooper No. 1076, Sean M. O'Connell, a 14-year veteran of
19 the Washington State Patrol, was among those who immediately responded,

1 ensured the safety of motorists, secured the accident scene, and helped
2 achieve the smooth flow of traffic on alternate north-south routes
3 across the river; and

4 WHEREAS, Barely a week after the collapse of the Skagit River
5 Bridge, Trooper O'Connell was killed in the line of duty while
6 directing rerouted traffic around the fallen bridge on the afternoon of
7 Friday, May 31, 2013; and

8 WHEREAS, Trooper O'Connell, a former Washington State Trooper of
9 the Year and the 28th Washington State Trooper to die in the line of
10 duty, was taken too soon from his wife and two young children; and

11 WHEREAS, The Legislature grieves for Trooper O'Connell and for his
12 family, friends, and colleagues. The Legislature wants his name and
13 honor to endure for future generations of Washingtonians and to serve
14 as a daily reminder of the sacrifices undertaken willingly by Trooper
15 O'Connell and others like him;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
17 Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to name
18 the Interstate 5 Skagit River Bridge the Trooper No. 1076, Sean M.
19 O'Connell Memorial Bridge to honor the service and sacrifice of this
20 dedicated peace officer and public servant.

21 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
22 transmitted to the Honorable Lynn Peterson, Secretary of
23 Transportation, the Washington State Transportation Commission, the
24 Washington State Department of Transportation, and the family of
25 Washington State Trooper No. 1076, Sean M. O'Connell.

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