

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING UTAH HIGHWAY
PATROL USE OF WHITE CROSSES AS
ROADSIDE MEMORIALS**

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Paul Ray

Senate Sponsor: Darin G. Peterson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor supports the placement of white crosses as roadside memorials to honor patrol officers killed in the line of duty.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

► expresses support for the Utah Highway Patrol's placement of white crosses ~~§~~ or other appropriate symbols as requested by the family, ←§ as memorials to Highway Patrol Officers who have been killed in the line of duty.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, since the creation of the Utah Highway Patrol in 1935, 14 Highway Patrol officers have been killed in the line of duty;

WHEREAS, the 14 Utah Highway Patrolmen who have been killed in the line of duty are Patrolman George "Ed" VanWagenen and Troopers Armond A. "Monty" Luke, George Dee Rees, Charles D. Warren, John R. Winn, William J. Antoniewicz, Robert B. Hutchings, Ray Lynn Pierson, Daniel W. Harris, Joseph "Joey" S. Brumett III, Dennis "Dee" Lund, Doyle R. Thorne, Randy K. Ingram, and Thomas S. Rettberg;



H.C.R. 4 LEGISLATIVE GENERAL COUNSEL
Approved for Filing: J.L. Wilson
01-17-06 10:43 AM

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28 WHEREAS, for the families of these officers who have paid the ultimate price for their
 29 service, there is often very little that can be done to stem the tide of their grief and suffering, or
 30 to help them move on with their lives;

31 WHEREAS, the families of these officers killed in the line of duty have been involved
 32 in, and have supported, the creation of roadside memorials that are placed near the location of
 33 the incidents that caused the deaths of their loved ones;

34 WHEREAS, each memorial represents a Utah Highway Patrol officer who died in the
 35 line of duty and service to the state of Utah and its citizens;

35a **H→ WHEREAS, a white cross has become widely accepted as a symbol of a death, and**
 35b **not a religious symbol, when placed along a highway; ←H**

36 WHEREAS, the memorials remind the citizens of Utah and this nation of the price that
 37 is too often paid for safety and freedom;

38 WHEREAS, the memorials also console the family members left behind, who too often
 39 consist of young mothers and young children;

40 WHEREAS, the primary feature of the memorials is a white cross, which was never
 41 intended as a religious symbol, but as a symbol of the sacrifice made by these highway patrol
 42 officers;

43 WHEREAS, the beehive emblem, which is also the official state emblem, is attached to
 44 the cross because the emblem is worn as part of official Utah Highway Patrol uniform;

45 WHEREAS, the purchase and placement of these memorials has been accomplished
 46 with private funds only; and

47 WHEREAS, given the heartfelt yet nonsectarian intentions of the memorials, removing
 48 or tampering with them would clearly convey an absence of concern, respect, and recognition
 49 of the sacrifices made by these officers and their families:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
 51 Governor concurring therein, express support for the Utah Highway Patrol's use of white
 52 crosses **H→ , or other appropriate symbols as requested by the family, ←H** as roadside
 52a memorials as a means to pay tribute to the heroes from the ranks of the
 53 Utah Highway Patrol who have fallen and to their families.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the surviving
 55 spouse or nearest relative of each Utah Highway Patrol Officer who has been killed in the line
 56 of duty and service to the citizens of Utah, the Utah Highway Patrol, and the Utah Highway
 57 Patrol Association.



Legislative Review Note
as of 1-16-06 12:39 PM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Fiscal Note
Bill Number HCR004

**Resolution Supporting Utah Highway Patrol Use of White Crosses as
Roadside Memorials**

18-Jan-06
8:39 AM

State Impact

Mailing requirements of this resolution can be handled within existing budgets.

Individual and Business Impact

No fiscal impact.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst