

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

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

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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.

35 **Special Clauses:**

36 None



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

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

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

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

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

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

54 WHEREAS, a white cross has become widely accepted as a symbol of a death, and not
55 a religious symbol, when placed along a highway;

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

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

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

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

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

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

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
71 Governor concurring therein, express support for the Utah Highway Patrol's use of white
72 crosses, or other appropriate symbols as requested by the family, as roadside memorials as a
73 means to pay tribute to the heroes from the ranks of the Utah Highway Patrol who have fallen
74 and to their families.

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