

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0005

Law Enforcement Memorial-Michael A. Rosa.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Washut, Harshman, Larson, JT
and Webb and Senator(s) Kolb and Landen

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION encouraging the Wyoming Peace Officer
2 Memorial Committee to enshrine the name of Patrolman Michael
3 A. Rosa on the Wyoming Law Enforcement Fallen Officer
4 Memorial.

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6 WHEREAS, Patrolman Michael A. Rosa, at the time of his death,
7 was twenty-nine (29) years old, was married and was the father
8 of two (2) daughters and a son; and

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10 WHEREAS, Patrolman Rosa was a veteran of the United States
11 Marine Corps and served in the Vietnam War and with the Rock
12 Springs Police Department for eight (8) months as an
13 undercover narcotics officer prior to his death; and

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1 WHEREAS, on Saturday, July 15, 1978, at approximately 1:00
2 a.m., Patrolman Rosa was shot and killed while seated in the
3 backseat of an unmarked police vehicle; and

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5 WHEREAS, the case was diligently and thoroughly investigated
6 by the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, and the
7 report was reviewed by the Sweetwater County prosecutor and
8 the person believed responsible was charged with murder; and

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10 WHEREAS, after a fifteen (15) day long preliminary hearing,
11 a justice of the peace in Sweetwater County determined that
12 there was probable cause to believe that Patrolman Rosa was
13 murdered by this individual and ordered that the first degree
14 murder case move forward to trial in the district court; and

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16 WHEREAS, the charged individual was represented at both the
17 preliminary hearing and the trial by a renowned trial lawyer
18 in the state and he was ultimately found not guilty of the
19 crime; and

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21 WHEREAS, Patrolman Rosa's name has never been included on the
22 Wyoming Law Enforcement Fallen Officer Memorial at the

1 Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy in Douglas, Wyoming, which
2 was dedicated on August 6, 1986; and
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4 WHEREAS, the conviction of charged individuals has not been
5 a requirement for inclusion on the Wyoming Law Enforcement
6 Fallen Officer Memorial, evidenced by the inclusion on the
7 wall of Deputy Tom Majors of Natrona County who was murdered
8 on November 2, 1919, and whose alleged killers were acquitted
9 at trial; and
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11 WHEREAS, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in
12 Washington, D.C., requires a form be completed and signed by
13 the head of the agency for which a fallen officer worked, and
14 forms lacking that signature will not be processed; and
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16 WHEREAS, cases submitted to the National Law Enforcement
17 Officers Memorial must be approved by the names committee and
18 then the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial research
19 staff contacts the respective agencies and surviving families
20 for verification; and
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22 WHEREAS, Patrolman Rosa met these stringent criteria and his
23 name is included on the national memorial; and

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2 WHEREAS, the Officer Down Memorial Page is a nonprofit
3 organization dedicated to honoring the lives and sacrifices
4 of America's fallen law enforcement officers; and

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6 WHEREAS, with over twenty-seven thousand (27,000) officers
7 lost in the line of duty since 1776, the Officer Down Memorial
8 Page preserves officers' legacies by providing a meaningful
9 platform for surviving families, fellow officers, friends and
10 the public to remember and pay tribute to fallen officers'
11 courage and service and Patrolman Rosa's name is included on
12 this page; and

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14 WHEREAS, Wyoming law enforcement officers who have died in
15 the line of duty are remembered at annual memorial services
16 held around the state by having their names read aloud at a
17 public ceremony, and at least one such ceremony held in 2025
18 recognized Patrolman Michael Rosa's name among those
19 proclaimed for remembrance.

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21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
22 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

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Section 1. That the Wyoming Legislature encourages the Wyoming Law Enforcement Memorial Committee to rectify the omission of Patrolman Michael A. Rosa's name from the Wyoming Law Enforcement Fallen Officer Memorial, and on or before the next Wyoming Law Enforcement Fallen Officer Memorial service, appropriately enshrine the name of Patrolman Michael A. Rosa of the Rock Springs Police Department on the Wyoming Law Enforcement Fallen Officer Memorial at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy at Douglas, Wyoming.

Section 2. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Attorney General, the director of the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy and the Wyoming Peace Officer Memorial Committee.

(END)