



Chairman Sorvaag and Committee Members

For the record I'm Arnie Strebe, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of BisBlox a business consulting company.

I stand before you today not just as a retired military officer, but as a proud member of the North Dakota community, deeply committed to preserving and honoring our rich heritage.

I'm also a member of the North Dakota National Guard Foundation and have served on the foundation board for over 5 years.

The North Dakota National Guard Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting military members and their families. They provide financial assistance through the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) for sudden and unforeseen emergencies like natural disasters, accidents, illnesses, fires, or theft. They also offer support to National Guard Service Members, Families, Veterans, and Survivor programs.

I'm also a member of the North Dakota Military Museum Executive Board and have been on this board since it started over 2 years ago.

Our state has a long and storied history of military service, a legacy that spans centuries and includes the invaluable contributions of our Native American communities.

Today, I am here to advocate for the funding of a museum project that will be an integral part of the North Dakota Heritage Center. This museum will serve as a testament to the bravery, sacrifice, and dedication of all those who have served in military service, from the earliest days of our state to the present.

This museum will honor the service of our military personnel and educate future generations about the sacrifices made to protect our freedoms. It will highlight the contributions of Native Americans, whose service and sacrifices have often been overlooked in the broader narrative of our nation's military history.

North Dakota is home to approximately 56,000 veterans, a significant number given our total population of around 800,000 people. This means that nearly 7% of our population has served in the military, a testament to the strong tradition of service in our state. This museum will honor veterans from all service branches, ensuring that their stories are preserved and celebrated.

By funding this project, you will ensure that the stories of our veterans, including those from the Native American communities, are preserved and celebrated. You will also

provide a space where families can come to learn, reflect, and be inspired by the courage and dedication of those who have served.

As of now, the NDNG Foundation, in collaboration with the museum's Executive Committee, the Pace Group has successfully raised \$7.581 million.

Recently, two donors made significant contributions, setting a precedent for others to join this effort. As many of you know from your past or current fundraising experiences, securing the initial donation often encourages others to contribute.

North Dakota Military Gallery Capital Campaign Update as of 01.09.25 –

Pledges Received to Date: • 10 Pledges for over \$ 7,581,207.41

Over 200 organizations and individual donors have been identified, and over 65 volunteers have been focused on raising funds for the museum.

In closing, I urge you to consider the profound impact this museum will have on our community and our state. It is not just a building but a beacon of honor, education, and remembrance. Let us come together to ensure that the legacy of our military service members is preserved for generations to come.

Thank you.