

**Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Senator Luick-Chair**

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1148.

**Intent of this bill:**

Establish the Month of May as “Military Appreciation Month”.

**Need for bill:**

- As per congressional action in 1999: Each year, the president makes a proclamation reminding Americans of the important role the U.S. Armed Forces have played in the history and development of our country. May was chosen because it has many individual days marked to note our military's achievements, including
  - Loyalty Day May 1 (since 1955 Dwight D. Eisenhower) A day for declaring loyalty to the USA and acknowledge American history.
  - Victory in Europe (VE) Day commemorating the end of WWII in Europe: May 8, 1945
  - Children of Fallen Patriots Day (May 13)
  - The anniversary of the death of Osama bin Laden (May 2, 2011)
  - Arlington National Cemetery was founded May 13, 1864.
  - Memorial Day: Observed the last Monday in May, Memorial Day honors those who lost their lives while in service to the United States during peace and war.
  - Military Spouse Appreciation Day: The Friday in May before Mother's Day, this special day was first recognized by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.
  - Armed Forces Day: On Aug. 31, 1949, Defense Secretary Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the armed forces under one agency -- the Department of Defense.

**Outcome of bill:**

North Dakota would be in line with federal “Armed Forces month”. ND Governor proclamation would be issued annually.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA