

HCR 3007

I am here first and foremost a Proud Vietnam veteran who served in the United States Navy both blue and brown waters and as the Legislative Director of the North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council. I am here on behalf of over 8.7 million sailors, soldiers, marines, and airman who fought in the most unpopular war in history. I am here for the 265000+ women who served and the 10,000 serving in country. I also am here for the 58479 including 8 women who gave their lives for something greater than themselves. I am her for the 1584 that are still missing. I am here for MSG Chester Ovnad, who fought in WWII and Korea as a Capt. in the Army. Wanting to stay in the Army he took a demotion to MSG, He died July 8, 1959, after Viet Cong guerillas stormed a mess hall killing 5 advisors as they watched a movie. He has roots in North Dakota in around the Adams area. He was the first American to die in Vietnam and is name 2 on the Wall. I am here for WO1 James McAleer of Steele who died as the result of helicopter crash on August 22,1968 in Lom Dong Province. He was the first from North Dakota to die in Vietnam. I am here for the 20,067 men who served in Vietnam from North Dakota and for the 220+ who killed in action. I am here for the 9 North Dakotans that are still missing and unaccounted for. I am here for all of us who are suffering from Agent Orange, and other toxins, Asbestos exposure, PTSD ,and other illnesses and those that bare the scares of their service. I am here for the hundreds of

ND veterans who had to sneak home under the cover of darkness.

I am here for those who were spit on, heckled, booed, called baby killers, and never getting a true welcome home. I am here for Patrick Glennon from Fessenden and Robert Searle from Grand Forks along the other 72 who died June 3, 1969, when the USS Franks E Evans DD 754 collided with the HMAS Melbourne and was cut in half with the forward sinking in under 3 minutes

On behalf of myself and the NDVLC I request you vote yes