

Military Appreciation Month

Chair Schauer and Committee members; my name is Joe Hall with the NDVLC.

I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 1148.

Veterans deserve our respect for serving our country. Many have risked their lives to protect us and our freedoms. Veterans have and are still playing an integral role in the shaping of our world along with our country, as we know it today.

Veterans have committed years of their lives to serving and protecting our county. Many veterans continue to serve long after leaving the military. In their communities and on a national level. You don't have to look very far to see veterans still serving. These men and women served and are still serving with selflessness as volunteers, mayors, legislators, mentors, lawyers, police officers the list goes on. Many still bear the heavy burden and scars of their service on behalf of the United States. Thousands face physical and mental challenges and many struggle to fit in and adjust to civilian life. The sacrifices made by them and their families during their time in service should never be forgotten. We should always remember and honor them not just on veteran's day but every day. It is our duty to never forget their contributions and sacrifices. As a nation it is our moral obligation to support them and their families.

In 1863 Abraham Lincoln wrote in a letter "Honor the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause" and during his second inaugural address he said, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan". This state affirmed the government's responsibility to care for those injured in war and the families of those who died. This statement is the mission statement for the Department of Veterans affairs to "care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors". Currently there are almost 30 National Monthly awareness programs; the Passage of this bill would greatly enhance our commitment and duty to never forget our veterans by allowing communities along with the state to be able to shine a spotlight on the sacrifices, challenges, and contributions of our veterans. The NDVLC supports this bill and asks for a do pass vote.