

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
69th Legislative Session
Representative Schauer-Chair

Chairman Schauer and House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1293.

Intent of this bill:

Create and provide headstone medallion for ND National Guard and Reserve members who are otherwise not qualified for VA/National Cemetery Administration (NCA) provided markers.

Background Need for bill:

- An individual serving in or has served in the US Uniformed Services, meeting VA eligibility criteria, is eligible for **Funeral Honors, Burial flag, and ND Coin**.
 - Including former National Guard and Reserve completing at least 1 term of service.
- An individual serving in or has served in the US Uniformed Services and meets the definition of a “Veteran” and is eligible for burial in National cemetery but is buried in a private cemetery is **eligible for an NCA approved headstone, marker, Urn, Plaque, or medallion**.
 - NCA: Medallions are for eligible Veterans and service members who are buried in a private cemetery marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. We may provide these types of medallions:
 - Bronze, or Medal of Honor
 - Traditional NG and Reservist (not eligible for retirement) are not eligible for any grave markers or medallions. *Graves have no marker indicating service in the US Uniformed Services.*
 - Recognition on: Memorial Day, Veterans day, Wreaths across America.

Outcome of bill:

- ND National Guard and Reserve who are not otherwise eligible for a VA medallion would be eligible for a ND marker.
- Marker would be designed and approved by NDDVA, ACOVA, and ND National Guard and Reserve.

Thank you for your consideration.
Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

Bronze Medallions: Small, Medium, or Large

The bronze medallion is available in three sizes: **Small** (2"W x 1-1/2"H x 1/3"D), **Medium** (3-3/4"W x 2-7/8"H x 1/4"D), or **Large** (6-3/8"W x 4-3/4"H x 1/2"D). Each medallion is inscribed with the word "VETERAN" across the top and the branch of service at the bottom.



Upright Headstones: Granite or Marble

The upright granite and upright marble headstones are 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 230 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color; the marble may contain light to moderate veining. [Lithichrome](#) (a darkened shading) is used for the inscription on headstones at private cemeteries.



Flat Grave Markers: Granite or Marble

The flat granite and flat marble grave markers are 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 130 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color; the marble may contain light to moderate veining.



Flat Grave Marker: Bronze

The flat bronze grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, with 3/4 inch rise. Weight is approximately 18 pounds. Anchor bolts, nuts and washers for fastening to a base are furnished with the marker. The government does not furnish a base.



Niche Marker: Bronze

The niche marker is 8 1/2 inches long, 5 1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds. Mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker.