

**TESTIMONY OF BRIGADIER GENERAL MITCH JOHNSON  
ADJUTANT GENERAL, NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2026**

**Senate Bill 2407 – Special Session**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, I am Brigadier General Mitch Johnson, Adjutant General of the North Dakota National Guard.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB2407 and the North Dakota Military Gallery.

From the Office of the Adjutant General's perspective, this project is about preserving the story of North Dakotans who have answered the call to serve.

For generations, our Soldiers, Airmen, veterans, families, and communities have made extraordinary contributions to our state and nation. The Military Gallery will provide a permanent place to preserve and share those stories.

Its mission is simple: Honor. Educate. Inspire.

The Office of the Adjutant General is committed to this mission and to providing the historical expertise, artifacts, and institutional knowledge necessary to tell North Dakota's military story accurately and respectfully.

This has also been a strong partnership. The Governor's Office, Legislature, State Historical Society, OMB, Capitol Grounds Planning Commission, both Foundations, PACE, and the Joint Military Museum Advisory Committee have all provided oversight, expertise, and accountability.

The current challenge is not the importance or viability of the project. The proposed line of credit provides a temporary bridge that allows the project to move forward while fundraising continues, protecting the investments already made.

The Office of the Adjutant General remains committed to this project because these stories need to be preserved for future generations are provided the opportunity to hear them.

We are grateful for the Legislature's continued partnership and respectfully ask for your support.

Thank you.