

HB1354

Hidden wounds in the military is a polite way to talk about suicide. In the years since 9/11 estimates are that 30,117 suicides have occurred in the military compared to 7957 who died in combat. If a soldier gets physically wounded' he knows that he'll see or be taken to a Doctor who will patch him. The wounds that are hidden are not that simple to treat. In the military you are expected to be a man and traditionally that meant to except the pain and carry on. In spite of, the military saying that talking about what's bothering us is okay to do, todays soldier continues traditional mentally. Solders coming home wars rarely if ever talk about there feelings. They have seen and done things that would seem horrible to most of the civilian population. In recent times these horrors are repeated deployment after deployment and even reentry into civilian life further complicates things. This bridge naming will act as memorial to the afar to many North Dakotans whose pain became so

great, and the nightmares too real, and repetitive they took their own life. These men and possibly some women for whatever reason were unable to let the war behind, instead it followed them. By passing this bill will show their families and friends that whether we agree or not with the solution take, we care and will unceasingly work to find a solution to PTSD related suicides and suicide in general. The North Dakota Legislative Council strongly and unanimously supports passage of this bill