

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN
KLEMIN AND HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

My name is Wayne Trottier, I am a member of the VFW, American Legion, and AMVETS, and 40&8, and I've served as chaplain of the VFW, American Legion, and the AMVETS organizations

Many people have told me that if we want more of the gaming funds for post use, why shouldn't every organization get to use more of their gambling funds

Probably the big issue is what veteran organizations stand for.

First of all, most people aren't aware of the oath that all soldiers and all veterans take when they enter the military. It is very similar to what politicians take, when it comes to the constitution and the rights and freedoms of all America. The big difference is that when military enter the service and say their oath, they promise to uphold & defend the constitution and protect the rights & freedoms of the American people, but they end their oath, "with my life", and every veteran believes in this, and when we think about it in the 20th century, that being 1900–2000, over 1 million American soldiers gave their lives for countries halfway around the world, so that these countries could have the rights and freedoms that we enjoy in the United States. No other organization has such an oath.

I would like to believe that all OF NORTH DAKOTA as well as the NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE would support our veterans.

To be upfront, I am a Vietnam era veteran, but never served on the ground in Vietnam. However, I have total respect for all those that have served overseas, with "boots on the ground". Again, so that all Americans can appreciate & enjoy the rights & freedoms, and for all of these things that we enjoy today.

Many of our veterans today, deal with issues that they came home with from the Combat experience. Many suffer from PTSD, physical injuries, and many memories that they deal with daily. Probably one of the biggest issues today, is those that served in Vietnam, and affected by Agent Orange. Every organization I have been a member of, I have seen many many veterans that are both disabled and have passed away from Agent Orange, during my time. The VA and the Federal government did not recognize agent orange health issues for over 25 years after the United States left Vietnam

With all of these things in mind, I feel the veteran organizations, that have gaming, deserve

to keep more of the gaming funds, to support their posts.

However, when a POST closes, communities most likely lose their celebration days like Memorial Day, Veteran's day, Military funerals & Military burials (the 21 gun salute and the TAPS)

Another point is, it will not cost the people of North Dakota one cent, or affect the North Dakota Legislative budget!!!

I thank you for your attention and stand for any questions you may have.

There may be detail questions, that would refer to Director Deb McDaniel