

**Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Senator Luick-Chair**

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture 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.
    - *National Guard and Reserve memorial benefits end here.*
- 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 Medallion.
- Medallion 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**