

2011 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1163

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1163
January 20, 2011
13166

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Carmen Hart

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Create and enact new section relating to the national honor and remember flag

Minutes:

Chairman Bette Grande opened the hearing on HB 1163.

Rep. George Keiser, District 47, appeared in support. This bill is to have North Dakota join other states in adopting the national honor and remember flag. Some background was given. A gentleman by the name of George Lutz had a son who was killed a few years ago. He made a commitment to his wife and himself, but especially to his son, that he would do something to address the special situation of those who have fallen in the line of duty. George Lutz made a commitment that he would travel to all 50 states and make a presentation to one family and then to additional families that could identify within the ___ and present a flag. Last summer he made it to Bismarck. He had three or four families who had lost their children in the line of duty during our recent and current conflicts. I don't normally do this. I made a commitment to Mr. Lutz when he was here and to the veterans that were there at the gathering that I would bring this forward to the legislature and ask North Dakota to join other states. Subsequent to that presentation, as you know, we had a celebration in the Great Hall that the Governor convened to create a day of recognition for Vietnam War veterans. The Governor had a few of us who were responsible for creating that day through legislation last session asked us to appear with him. Then he asked each of us if we wanted to comment, and that is the only point where it got personal for me. When I was a young person, married, had a child, it was a different time. We had a draft. You stayed in college as long as you could. Nobody was anxious to go to Vietnam. There were war protests on campuses. You had choices of going to Canada. You could make a decision to try and enlist and choose your service. I made a lot of attempts to enlist, but I will share with you that in the Vietnam War, it was somewhat of a class war. If you were wealthy and had connections, you could get into ROTC programs that were quickly closed, fully enrolled or you could get into things like the Coast Guard, Air Force, or Navy because they were not really combat zones. If you were a lower income family without connections, chances were pretty slim that you would in fact find the opportunity to enlist even though it is a four-year commitment. My family was a poor family. My father was an immigrant. My mother was a child of immigrants, not well educated, not well connected. I did everything possible, but I missed every possible deferral. There was a marriage deferral. I got married a year after they eliminated it. There was a child deferral. We had a child after

they eliminated the deferral. At that time if you did not take a full load in college, you would be drafted and a full load was 12 credits or more. Long story short, that day comes when you graduate, you are married, you have a child, and I received in the mail my draft notice. I made a decision to enlist in the Army on the provision that I would have the opportunity to go to OCS and become an officer. I served with a company that had a disproportionate number of Blacks, Hispanics, and poor White kids. There was one kid who didn't go to Vietnam. He was a defensive back for the San Diego Chargers, and he kept saying he wasn't going. Once again, it demonstrates it pays to have connections. This is where it gets kind of personal for me. I have made two very long walks in my life. One was coming home on Christmas on leave and had not seen my wife or child for about nine months. At that time to travel as a military person, you had to be in uniform. When I was at the San Francisco airport, I had people spit on me as a war monger. It is a very difficult position to be in, but I could rationalize it because their right to spit on me was being guaranteed by what we were doing and I could live with that comfortably. The other long walk is if I am in Washington DC, I do go to the Vietnam Memorial, because my company friends are on that wall. We lost almost 70% of our company. They weren't close friends, but they had my back and, hopefully, at the appropriate times I had theirs. When I saw George Lutz come forward with this, I said you know he has made a commitment to do this for his son and I am making a commitment to do this for the people who have served our country and who have died in combat. It is an honor and a curse to have served with people who have died fighting with you and for us. **Attachment 1.** George Lutz's organization is attempting to provide flags.

Rep. Lonny Winrich: The letter from George Lutz refers to a federal bill HR 1034. Do you know the status of that in Congress?

Rep. Keiser: I only know the status as he talked about it when he was here last summer. He said that they have introduced it. It is not a high priority for the Congress. They think it could be handled at the states' level, and thus he made the commitment to go state to state.

Colonel Davina French, North Dakota National Guard, appeared. Thank you for the testimony. The person who just walked out is named Kimberly. That is the daughter of Ken Hendrickson who, on Monday it will be seven years, was killed with an IED. This started at TAPS. We are the only state that pays a great enormous amount for our tragedy assistance program. We took 39 family members over Memorial Day in May. Every year it keeps growing. We raise money and we take them there so that they can help heal.

Chairman Bette Grande: I appreciate hearing TAPS is doing that. This committee here has dedicated dollars to TAPS. It has been our mission each year to pool our money and do that. That is nice to hear how that is going.

John Jacobson appeared to testify for himself because the coordinating council has a neutral position on this bill. I was introduced to the bill by a member of the Patriots Riders. He hits all the events involving veterans. He is there with the flag. He showed me the brochure that he had showing the remembrance flag. I thought it was a very good idea and the purpose behind it I didn't really understand or know until Rep. Keiser mentioned it. Personally, I am in favor of the bill and I would like to see you go for it

There was no one neutral or in opposition of this bill.

The hearing was closed.

Vice Chairman Randy Boehning made a motion for a **Do Pass**.

Rep. Karen Rohr seconded the motion.

DO PASS, 13 YEAS, 0 NAYS. Rep. Karen Karls is the carrier of this bill.*

***Later Chairman Grande changed the carrier to Rep. Steiner.**

Date: 1-20-11
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1163

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN AFFAIRS Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep Boehning Seconded By Rep Rohr

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Bette Grande	✓		Bill Amerman	✓	
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning	✓		Ron Guggisberg	✓	
Glen Froseth	✓		Lonny Winrich	✓	
Karen Karls	✓				
Lisa Meier	✓				
Gary Paur	✓				
Karen Rohr	✓				
Mark Sanford	✓				
Vicky Steiner	✓				
Roscoe Streyle	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep Steiner

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1163: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Grande, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1163 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2011 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1163

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1163
March 11, 2011
15304

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the national honor and remember flag.

Minutes:

Testimony Attached

Representative George Keiser: District 47 in Bismarck. I bring to this committee a policy issue which in this case is very personal. Many years ago I was a high school student and at that time we had a draft. After high school we had to take a physical and eventually we went to college, it was during Vietnam and it was very interesting there were a lot of was that you could get out of service. Married and a child were on the way. Eventually, male students were required to take a full load or they would be eligible for the draft. After I graduated I was accepted to grad school, after one semester I was drafted. Some of my friends chose to go to Canada and I chose to serve. It was never my favorite part of my life but it was a tremendous experience. There were several things that I discovered; the Vietnam War was a caste war. If you were wealthy and white you could get into the National Guard or ROTC; if you were Latino, Native American, and black, low income white you didn't have that option. The vast majority of us were not coming from wealthy families. Last summer the governor asked me to speak. I remember coming home on leave to see my wife and child and I was very excited. At that time to get inexpensive military travel you had to wear your uniform. I flew through California and it was a very difficult time. As I walked though the airport in San Francisco I was spat on, jeered at, ECT. I didn't get angry, it was their right to do that and it was a result of my and others' efforts. The other walk I remember is walking through the Vietnam Memorial last weekend. There are members of my group that will never make it home. There was a gentleman named George Lutz whose son has been lost in Fallujah. He has a plan to travel to all 50 states to spread the word

about the honor and remember flag. I always have had some frustration that I have left and have a family and a life. There was nothing that I could do for the families, until George Lutz came along. If you could have been there when the governor presented the flag it was very emotional. When Mr. Lutz came Chairman Dever and I talked afterwards and decided to present this bill. We are here to ask for your favorable consideration. This is totally inadequate as a remembrance but it is better than what we have now. I will say that the governor was totally behind it in the ceremony because this is the one thing that I can do.

Senator Berry: So only families and relatives would be able to have this flag?

Representative George Keiser: That is my understanding but it can be flown.

Robert A. Koeller: See attached testimony #1.

Gene O'Neal: I just want to share a couple thoughts I just feel that we should adopt this flag. Too often we all really around the families and then 2 days later we move on. I too, have the greatest respect for the flag, but I feel this is another way for someone to.

Reggie Trebid: POC for honor and remember campaign when it came to North Dakota. We met with the governor and gold star family, this flag does not take away anything from the POW/MIA flag, from the USA flag we are just asking to continue to honor and remember those. It is meant to be flown and remembered so we see that we have lost people. Through history we have not had a symbol; the family that has a family member that has the flag is not a public symbol it is to be held to your heart. We can't give anymore, they have given their lives

Chairman Dever: While we do not have

Reggie Trebid:

Senator Berry: This is in many legislatures through the county, it is being adopted right now

Reggie Trebid: yes

Senator Berry: is the flag uniform?

Mike Fischer: Read the testimony of John Jacobsen. See attached testimony #2.

Virgil Horst: See attached testimony #3.

Mary Walters: See attached testimony #4.

Harry E. Walters: See attached testimony #5.

Dell Lind: See attached testimony #6.

Jerod Hawk: See attached testimony #7.

John "Butch" Olsen: See attached testimony #8.

Chairman Dever: When you say if you want to, the bill says that it will be the official flag. It doesn't however; say that people have to fly it.

John "Butch" Olsen: I don't think that it should be required.

There was no one else to speak in support, opposition or a neutral position. Chairman Dever closed the public hearing on HB 1163.

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1163
March 17, 2011
15615

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the national honor and remember flag.

Minutes:

No testimony attached.

Senator Nelson: It's not an official flag. Official state honor and remember flag

Senator Cook: The POW/MIA flag is able to do that without info in the Code.

Senator Nelson: Maybe someday it will be an official flag at that time we can deal with it.

Senator Nelson made a motion for a do not pass with a second by Senator Marcellais.

Chairman Dever: Representative Keiser's testimony moved me. I am going to oppose the do not pass but because I think that it should not be unanimous.

Vice Chairman Sorvaag: I don't see a problem with it. I don't think that anyone dies for that flag.

Senator Berry: How do you say no to something that is supposed to honor someone who has given the ultimate sacrifice?

There was no further discussion, roll was taken, the motion passed 4-3 with Senator Marcellais carrying the bill to the floor.

Date: 3-17-11
Roll Call Vote # _____

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1103

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Nelson Seconded By Marcellais

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Dever		X	Senator Marcellais	X	
Vice Chairman Sorvaag		X	Senator Nelson	Y	
Senator Barry		X			
Senator Cook	X				
Senator Schaible	X				

Total (Yes) 4 No 3

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Marcellais

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

2011 TESTIMONY

HB 1163

Attachment 1
1163



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

April 21, 2010

The Honorable Bob McDonnell
Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor

I want to share with you an important action taken by the Commonwealth of Virginia during our 2010 General Assembly session to acknowledge and honor our fallen military heroes. I hope you will consider encouraging your legislature to do likewise.

You may already have heard of the organization Honor and Remember founded by George Lutz. George lost his son, George Anthony Lutz II (Tony) of Chesapeake, Virginia, who was killed by a sniper's bullet while he was on patrol in Fallujah, Iraq in 2005. This tragic event led him on a mission to create a symbol that would serve as a continuous public reminder of all the individuals who have died in military service to America. George designed a flag and started an organization that seeks to accomplish this goal. He worked with our General Assembly members to have a bill introduced that designated the Honor and Remember Flag as the Commonwealth's emblem of service and sacrifice for the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty.

I am thrilled to have been a part of this historic movement and I am an avid supporter of the flag. I ask that you take a moment to review the attached bill (HJ 137) with the hope that you will want to spearhead an effort to make this flag an official emblem of your state.

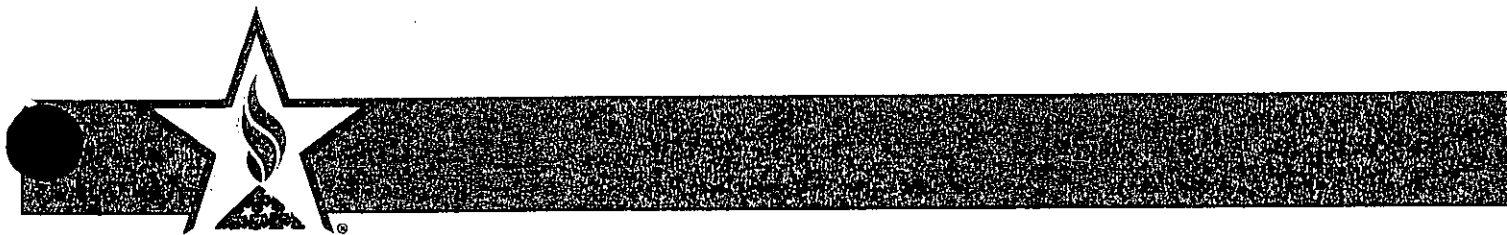
As part of his mission, George will launch the *Honor and Remember Across America Campaign* here in Virginia on June 5th. He plans to visit every state capital over a five-month period, making personalized flag presentations to Gold Star families and meeting with state officials to promote adoption of the flag.

I also want to make you aware that there is a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 1034) that, when passed, will make the Honor and Remember Flag an official symbol of the United States of America. Please visit the organization's website at www.honorandremember.org to learn more.

With warm personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Robert F. McDonnell



HONOR AND REMEMBER, INC.

Enclosed in this packet you'll find information about the Honor and Remember Flag. I hope you'll take a moment to review the packet contents and consider supporting legislation in your state to adopt the flag as an official state symbol, as my home state of Virginia has done. I also hope that you will express your support for federal legislation that will make the Honor and Remember Flag an official emblem of the United States of America.

Currently, I am engaged in a five-month journey across the USA on a mission to raise awareness for the flag and promote its adoption by every state in the nation. My plan is to visit every state capital and meet with governors and legislators to introduce myself and enlist their aid in accomplishing this goal. In each state I will also present personalized Honor and Remember Flags to Gold Star families who have lost a loved in military service to America.

The enclosed material includes some background on the flag's history and symbology. You'll also find a copy of the federal bill (HR 1034) that is under consideration in the House of Representatives and the Virginia bill (HJ 137), which was passed unanimously and signed into law on April 29. The state of Oklahoma has also adopted the flag and nine other states are currently considering similar legislation.

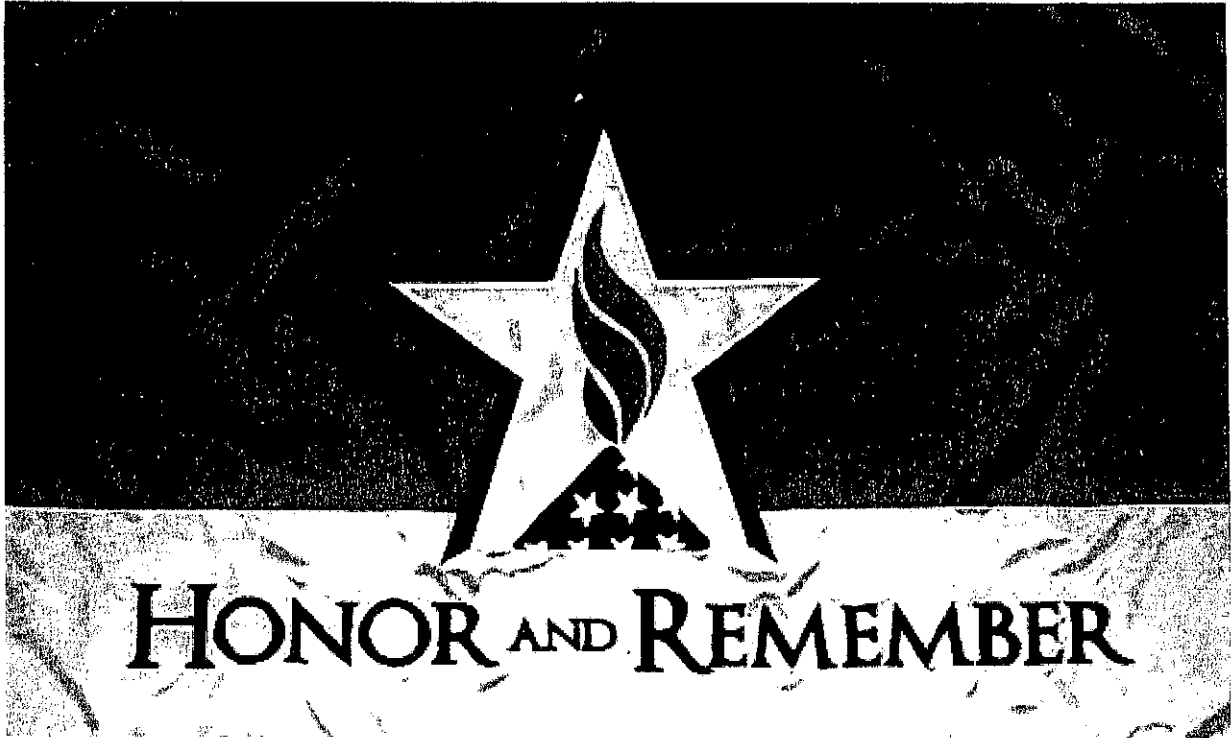
In the more than 200 years of our nation's history there has never been an officially recognized symbol that reminds us daily of the sacrifices made by members of our military and the lives lost in service to our country. The Honor and Remember Flag recognizes all military individuals from all wars or conflicts involving the United States who died while serving since our nation's inception.

I hope you will join me in this historic movement to establish a national symbol that specifically pays tribute to military service members who paid the ultimate price to protect our freedom. Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,

George A. Lutz, Founder

Attachment 2
1163



Good morning Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee. My name is John "Butch" Olson and I am here to speak against HB 1163.

For all the families that are here today that have lost a loved one from war, I feel for you and am sorry that I differ with you on this issue.

In my opinion the State or the Nation should not be involved in this issue. Fly the Honor and Remember Flag, if you want to, that's your right.

Ex-servicemen and women recently got the right to salute the US Flag and every time I proudly salute the Stars and Stripes I think of all the military men and woman that have served and died for our Country and Freedom.

I feel, before we add another flag to honor, we need to band together and protect the Flag we have. Can you imagine families of fallen soldiers watching protestors dragging, and burning an Honor and Remember Flag at their loved ones funeral?

Thank you for your time.

Hello, Good morning _____

My name is Jerod Hawk, North Dakota Native; I am also a business owner in Bismarck here. I was raised pledging my allegiance to the United States of American Flag, Ol glory, The Red White & Blue. I am not a veteran, nor have I served in any of the ~~5~~ branches of service. I stand behind every soldier's choice of employment, although I also believe, that was his or her choice of employment and duty. I chose not to join any military branch on a couple different occasions and for many reasons.

One reason – There are many fronts that require sacrifice from every citizen and/or patriot to ensure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in and outside of our countries borders.

As our soldiers fight for our freedoms overseas, police officers are patrolling the streets for our security at home, firefighters sacrifice daily for our safety in and around our homes, and regular citizens stand up against oppression in many forms to protect our rights from those who are willing to take the freedoms we still hold, at home or business.

The ultimate sacrifice is one's life. An American does not have to choose to be a soldier to sacrifice his or her life for their country or for another. Today, we are here defending Old Glory once again.

Everyday, our country's borders are passed over as if there were no borders to begin with. Flags of other countries are being flown as tall as our Red White & Blue Colors, all around this land. We are losing sight of yet another symbol that represents our country as a country.

I am not against fads and I believe that any new craze can be inspirational. Good ideas come and go. Though accepting another flag as a National or State recognized mandate would only take life from the US flag.

Old Glory represents all who live with honor and for all who sacrifice for this great country. Recognizing another flag by our government (state and federal) would only say "One Ultimate Sacrifice for life and/or country is better then another."

As far as the POW/MIA flag. This flag is flown in memory of those who never received a proper burial within the borders of the country they sacrificed their life for. When our government sends our troops to countries well out of Our Empire, then their job is to bring them back. Responsibility for the bodies of our men and women who were good enough to send over should be good enough to have a ride home. This flag is flown for the purpose of their memory. They should never be forgotten.

We currently have two flags that represent us, the red white and blue and the black and white. The first one we were willing to die for and the second one we do cry for, we need no other. The pow/mia flag is something we have worked for sacrificed for and spent many years supporting. It now flies along side our colors and just about every citizen of our country knows what it stands for. Our plight as veterans from the Viet Nam era has always been an uphill battle, a lot of times the only thing left that we could believe in was the stars and stripes. That is why the pow/mia flag is so very important to most veterans I know, it represents all the empty feelings that we were left with after what we were told was a senseless war. We have not forgotten or will never forget our brothers who never returned. We commit our fallen Heroes to there final rest under the red, white and blue and we remember those who never returned with the pow/mia flag. I truly believe that our efforts have brought full attention to our now returning veterans, they are now welcomed with what has always been the one and only flag that represents us all- Old Glory. There is no higher honor and we need no other.



Dell Lind- President Freewheelers MC

Good morning Committee Chairman Dever, Committee Members, I am Retired Major Harry E. Walters Jr. I am here today to speak for myself alone. I am Life Member of several veterans' organizations which includes 4 of the 5 organizations that make up ACOVA. I am a member of the Military Officers Association of America and the American Military Retirees Association. I am a Life Member of the 75th Ranger Regimental Association & the Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club. Of all this association I do not know a single veteran that is in favor of the Honor & Remembrance Flag.

I come from a very military family. I took my first tour to Europe when I was less than 2 years old. My father was home on leave from Vietnam when I joined the Army. He retired with 23 years of service. Of his four sons we were all in the Army. I retired with 25 years of service, my brother John retired with 26 years. Our sons have & do serve in the Army. Two weeks ago we went to Ft Campbell, KY to welcome my one nephew home from his 5th tour in combat with the 101st Airborne Division. His younger brother is 100% disabled at the age of 25 due to an IED in Iraq. His cousin, one of my other nephews is preparing to deploy on his 3rd tour even as we speak. Even 2 of my nieces married soldiers. My immediate family has well over 100 collective years of service to this country & the Stars & stripes.

That is the flag we served for and that is the flag I want my coffin draped with when I pass. Mr. Lutz's proposed Honor & Remembrance flag is good intentioned but the flag to honor a fallen soldier should be the flag he or she died for. Please don't ever give my wife anything other than Old Glory.

The only other flag that should be nationally recognized is the POW-MIA Flag. Those that fit in that category have endured a sacrifice of the level none of the rest of us can understand. For that and that alone should there be a special distinction. To continue recognizing flag after flag for special interest groups would leave our flagpoles full but the flags meaningless.

I ask of you in respect of one family's service to this great country of ours, vote **NO** on HB #1163. Are there any questions of me?

Harry E. Walters Jr.

Good morning Chairman Dever and Committee Members. My name is Mary Walters and I am a veteran of the United State Army Woman's Army Corps. I am a member of the Woman's Army Corps Association, the Dakota Sisterhood of Women Veterans and the AMVETS but I am here today to speak for myself.

The flag I am holding is the one that draped my father's coffin. This is the flag that my grandfather served under during World War I. It is the flag my father served during World War II. This is the flag I swore allegiance to during my service in the Army and later than North Dakota Army National Guard.

Every service person I know feels strongly about the flag we served & fought for. Don't give our family something else after we've died.

I ask you to vote **NO** on HB #1163. Thank you for hearing me.

Mary M. Walters

Good Morning Chairman Dever & Committee Members of Government & Veteran Affairs. My name is Virgil Horst. I'm State President for the VNV MC/Legacy Vets MC, also VP for VVA Chapter 150 here in Bismarck I am also a life time member of both the Amvets & VFW. But today I am here representing myself only. It seems with our country engaged in 2 wars, we feel compelled to pass laws every session to recognize our veterans, I personally think it has gone somewhat overboard. It seems like everyone coming out of basic training is a hero. My hero's names are written on the wall, and that is why I am here today. Do we really need another nationally recognized flag to honor our fallen hero's, my opinion is we do not. We honor our fallen hero's who have paid the ultimate sacrifice every year on May 30 **Memorial Day**. We have memorials or monuments through out the country with the names of our fallen hero's . We also have Gold Star mothers whose sons are given recognition . Yes we have another nationally recognized flag, it's called the POW-MIA flag. That flag represents our brothers and sisters still waiting to come home from a foreign land whose families don't know what closure is. I can't begin to say how sadden we are for a family who has **lost** a soldier. Again this nation honors its fallen soldiers in many special ways & I do not think we need another nationally recognized flag. I ask that you do not support **HB1163**.

**HONOR AND REMEMBER FLAG
TESTIMONY
March 11, 2011**

I am speaking to you as a concerned citizen of the great state of North Dakota, Bismarck, and as a veteran.

Let us talk a little about the flag of the United States of America (Old Glory). There are those veterans that say we have fought under Old Glory, some have bled under Old Glory, there are those that died under Old Glory, and those that say I will be buried under Old Glory and that is the only flag that is necessary. I respect their views and their wishes. I myself will be buried under Old Glory and proudly fly the flag every day.

Let us skip to the Vietnam War. As a result of the Vietnam War the issue arose of our POW's and MIA's. Our Government in all its prior wars and in its haste to move on forgot about the POW's and MIA's and ignored these warriors. The public and veterans did not stand for this and as a result the POW/MIA flag came into existence and has been recognized and adopted nationally. Because of the POW/MIA flag our government to this day is still looking for and bringing home those warriors. I have attended services for a MIA from Hardin, MT missing for 40 years, a MIA from Billings, MT missing for 39 years, and a MIA from Fargo, ND missing for 42 years. There are those that say this flag is not necessary. I proudly fly this flag so that we "Never Forget" and as a reminder that we must continue to look for and bring these warriors home.

Now we are dealing with the Gulf Wars and Global War On Terror (GWOT). Coming out of these wars is the Honor And Remember Flag. This flag is to establish a tangible symbol of gratitude as a visible public reminder to all Americans; perpetually recognizing all military lives lost in defense of our national freedoms. In the more than 200 years of our nation's history there has never been an officially recognized symbol that reminds us daily of the sacrifices made by members of our military and the lives lost in service to our country. There are those that say this flag is not necessary. Those warriors who gave their lives and the families and friends of those warriors who have sacrificed so much are able to get some sense of relief, closure, healing, and recognition for their great loss by being able to fly the Honor And Remember Flag and knowing it has been recognized and adopted by the state of North Dakota. It is a small price to pay for their great loss.

I encourage this committee to recommend a do pass for the Honor And Remember Flag.

Respectfully.

Robert A Koeller



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

April 21, 2010

The Honorable Bob McDonnell
Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

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As part of his mission, George will launch the *Honor and Remember Across America Campaign* here in Virginia on June 5th. He plans to visit every state capital over a five-month period, making personalized flag presentations to Gold Star families and meeting with state officials to promote adoption of the flag.

I also want to make you aware that there is a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 1034) that, when passed, will make the Honor and Remember Flag an official symbol of the United States of America. Please visit the organization's website at www.honorandremember.org to learn more.

With warm personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. McDonnell".

Robert F. McDonnell



HONOR AND REMEMBER, INC.

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Currently, I am engaged in a five-month journey across the USA on a mission to raise awareness for the flag and promote its adoption by every state in the nation. My plan is to visit every state capital and meet with governors and legislators to introduce myself and enlist their aid in accomplishing this goal. In each state I will also present personalized Honor and Remember Flags to Gold Star families who have lost a loved in military service to America.

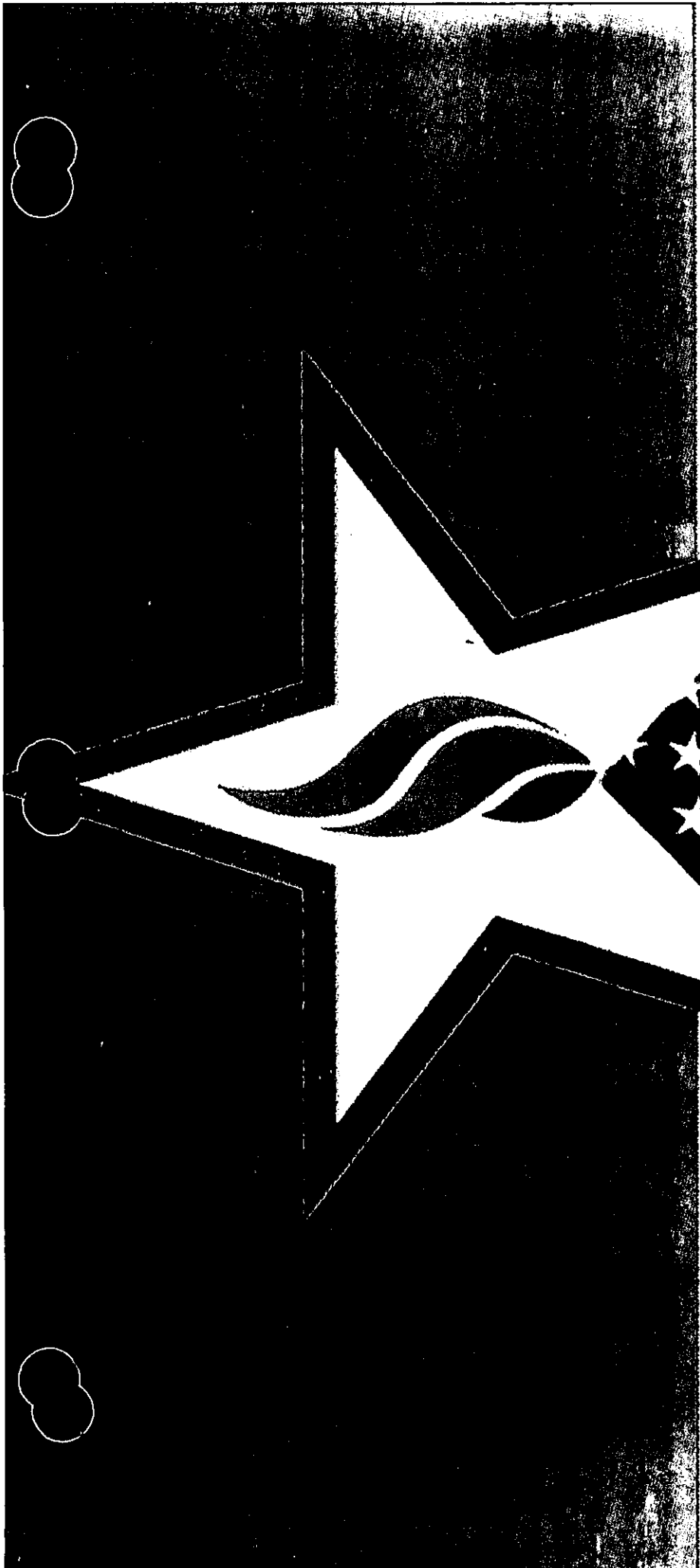
The enclosed material includes some background on the flag's history and symbology. You'll also find a copy of the federal bill (HR 1034) that is under consideration in the House of Representatives and the Virginia bill (HJ 137), which was passed unanimously and signed into law on April 29. The state of Oklahoma has also adopted the flag and nine other states are currently considering similar legislation.

In the more than 200 years of our nation's history there has never been an officially recognized symbol that reminds us daily of the sacrifices made by members of our military and the lives lost in service to our country. The Honor and Remember Flag recognizes all military individuals from all wars or conflicts involving the United States who died while serving since our nation's inception.

I hope you will join me in this historic movement to establish a national symbol that specifically pays tribute to military service members who paid the ultimate price to protect our freedom. Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,

George A. Lutz, Founder



TM

HONOR AND REMEMBER

7

TESTIMONY ON HB 1163 - ND VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL.

A veteran is an individual that has signed a blank check in the amount of and up to including his or her life for their country. Good morning, my name is John L. Jacobsen. I am the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. I am also a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I served in the North Dakota National Guard and the US Army Reserve for a total of 30 years. I retired in 1995 as a Colonel. I was mobilized for Active Duty in 1991 during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Like all mobilizations, I left my home and family to serve in the Persian Gulf, stationed in the United Arab Emirates.

The Coordinating Council is made up of 15 members, 3 from each of the five Veterans Organizations in North Dakota:

- American Legion
- AMVETS
- Disabled American Veterans
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Vietnam Veterans of America

It is the policy of the Coordinating Council to support legislation that will benefit the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces. The committee MUST concur totally, that is all 15 members must agree on the legislation to be supported or else it does not get the support.

In this case, I have been instructed to recommend to this legislative committee that a "DO PASS" on HB 1163 is supported by the membership of the Veterans Coordinating Council.