



Lake County Board of Commissioners

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Bradley J. Winters, Chairman
James Williams, Vice-Chairman
Mark Albertson, Commissioner

Lake County BOCC Letter to Representative Reschke

February 20, 2019,

We are writing to you to request your vote in favor of HB 2195. If HB 2195 becomes law, it would dedicate land within the Capitol State Park for a long overdue Vietnam War Memorial and create a Task Force to arrange for development, design, construction and funding of the Memorial.

By similar legislation, the Oregon WWII Veterans Memorial was created on the Capitol grounds 5 years ago to honor Oregon's 156,000 WWII Veterans who served, the 3,757 who perished and the 883 who still remain Missing in Action (MIA). The Vietnam memorial could be located near the WWII Memorial.

Approximately 119,800 Oregonians served during the Vietnam War with 710 known to have perished and another 33 who still remain MIA.

Vietnam Veterans make up the largest fraction of Oregon's 310,000 living veterans. It is vital to dedicate a Vietnam War Memorial now while we have a large population of living Vietnam War Veterans.

Lake County lost four veterans during combat in the Vietnam War. We estimate 201 Vietnam War veterans reside in Lake County today. They too would be honored by the memorial at the State Capitol. While the statistics of Lake County's Vietnam Veterans casualties and living population might seem small, it is typical of many rural communities across Oregon. They all deserve to be honored at a central location at our state capitol where the veterans, families and the visiting public can learn of their service and sacrifice and honor them.

The Task Force must arrange for full funding before design and construction of the memorial can begin. Therefore, time is of the essence to pass HB 2195.

We would expect the proposed Vietnam War Memorial to provide the "Welcome Home" our Vietnam Veterans never received over four decades ago.

Please let us know if we can help.

Respectfully,

Bradley J. Winters
Chair

James Williams
Vice-Chair

Mark Albertson
Commissioner

cc: Sen. Benz, Sen. Linthicum, Rep. McLane, Rep. Findley, Charles Pike