



United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO)
"In Service to Oregon's Military Veterans and Their Families"

The Honorable Representative Paul Evans
Chair, House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
900 Court St. NE, S-205
Salem, Oregon 97301

22 March 2021

Testimony in Support of SB 319 on Behalf of the United Veterans' Groups of Oregon

Dear Representative Evans:

As the Chair of the United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO), I wish to convey the unanimous support of the UVGO for SB 319, a bill which will dedicate a portion of the State Capitol State Park for a Vietnam War Memorial. The UVGO represents 13 major nationally established veterans' groups in Oregon and advocates on behalf of more than 300,000 veterans in the State of Oregon.

Locating the Vietnam War Memorial in the State Capitol Park will be a fitting tribute long overdue to the more than 57,000 Oregon residents who served in combat in the conflict, and the many thousands more who served in our military during the Vietnam War Era. Most importantly, it will bear witness to the 710 Oregonians who made the ultimate sacrifice and were killed in action in Vietnam.

The Vietnam War represented a transformational and divisive moment in American history. The trauma and legacy of the conflict continue to impact many Oregonians. Your efforts to bring forth a Vietnam War Memorial in the State Capitol Park, in a park that already bears tribute to the sacrifices of Oregonians in other conflicts, will help Vietnam Veterans and the families and loved ones of those lost to find solace. It will undoubtedly bring forth reflection on the part of all Oregonians for generations to come.

The UVGO extends its sincere appreciation to the House and Senate Committees on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness for your efforts to ensure that the sacrifice and service of many Oregonians during the Vietnam War is forever memorialized. As always, the UVGO will partner with the Committees to advance the interests of Oregon residents who have selflessly served our State and Nation.

Sincerely,

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The United Veterans' Groups of Oregon Membership: Air Force Association; American Legion; Association of the United States Army; Disabled American Veterans; Korean War Veterans' Association; Military Officers Association of America; Military Order of the Purple Heart; National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc.; Non-Commissioned Officers Association; Paralyzed Veterans of America; Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America; and 40+8.