



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Veterans' Affairs

700 Summer St NE

Salem, OR 97301

800-828-8801 | 503-373-2085

www.oregon.gov/odva

DATE: June 15, 2021
TO: House Committee on Rules
FROM: Kelly Fitzpatrick, Director, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
SUBJECT: SB 319 – Vietnam Veterans' Memorial

Chair Smith Warner and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for providing this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and Senator Manning for bringing SB 319. The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is neutral on the legislation. However, we would like to express our support for the work of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Fund in its mission to honor veterans of the Vietnam War.

I have been in communication with Steve Bates and the Fund since 2018, and I continue to be impressed by their unwavering commitment to making this memorial a reality. As the members of the Fund have worked the concept and plans for the memorial through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's process for approval, I have witnessed the Fund's openness to working with partners to create a memorial that will not only honor veterans but will provide an opportunity for education, respite and reflection on one of our Nation's most complex conflicts.

I look forward to seeing the final design of the memorial as the Fund's members work with OPRD, the Salem community and all communities affected by the Vietnam War to design a memorial that is inclusive, and provides the dignity and honor due to those who served in our Nation's Armed Forces.

Thank you for your consideration, and your continued support of Oregon veterans.