

JEFFREY A. HELFRICH
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 52



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 14th, 2024

Co-Chairs, Vice Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

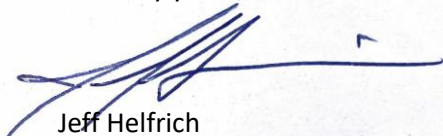
I wish to express my support for the request of \$400,000 for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund for the following reasons:

- While there are memorials to every war including the Civil War in our capital city of Salem, there is no Vietnam War Memorial
- The Vietnam War is second only to World War II for Oregon war casualties
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, combined with the World War II Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds will memorialize about 75% of Oregon's war dead
- Our Vietnam veterans are aging – the average age is now 76. The oldest are 100+, the youngest are 66
- It is estimated that 55% of Oregon's Vietnam veterans are still living
- We are losing as many as eight Vietnam veterans every day
- As a result, the Vietnam War Memorial must be erected sooner rather than later

The Vietnam War Memorial Fund has announced it is ready to start construction of the first phase of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Grounds. However, they have a \$400,000 deficit.

We must do our part to help preserve the memory of the sacrifice so many Oregonians and Americans made during the Vietnam War. Please allocate the needed \$400,000 to the Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

Sincerely yours,



Jeff Helfrich