

Submitter: Anthony Pokorny
On Behalf Of: Constitutionalist minded folks
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB947

Tony Pokorny

I strongly oppose SB 947 for several reasons

The language of altering organized militia as "National Guard" is completely confusing. Why have our local organized militia's of police departments, sheriff's, so on be considered National Guard? National Guard defines as being serving out of Oregon as well as in Oregon. Not only that, it would be almost a joke of sorts from other states that Oregon has 2 different types of National Guard. Language and defining language is important.

Leaving out the unorganized militia, people like me, neighbor, everyone else in general public; is a disservice. Raised in Oakridge, Oregon and family been living there since 1880's, I know the history there better than most. A close Uncle of mine, who passed, answered the call for the militia issued by Governor Sprague. My grandfather also responded as well, being unable to serve in the militia due to an ulcer taken out of his right leg, and his left was medically crippled to keep his right, served by walking railroad tracks that bordered his tree farm. They were also in part responsible for the construction of fire watch towers on Huckleberry Flats area, Mule Mountain, Waldo and so on, while sentries watching the train tunnel in Oakridge and bridges near by as the only railroad line connecting Seattle to San Diego. Those towers serve still today for wildland fire watching.

Follow source, I point out Paragraph 12; indicating civilians being involved in military and community defense from Japanese attack. The civilians were not to say anything, sworn to secrecy. Knowing who was participated is by few and far in-between, as the balloon bombs were dropping in the forests, militia would head out and put the fires out as quickly as possible, making it look like that Japan was not being effective.

<https://www.oregonmilitia.com/history>

<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/ww2/Pages/protect-guard.aspx>

<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/ww2/Pages/threats-bombs.aspx?fbclid=IwY2xjawKA3bIleHRuA2FibQIxMABicmlkETFNakJpcG9hT0JYaVVaODVyAR5IH1liecM8XIoIYMsQIO->

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l4w6Js9gogFiw

Nobody cared who the other was. Mattered not by race, age, or even physically differences. It was based on able to do the job and do it without gratitude and anyone knowing about it at all. As much as little is mentioned of civilian involvement, We the People answered the call for the militia.

In effect of SB 947 dissolves the unorganized militia, which puts space from government entities and civilians. As a registered voter, I am part of the government even though I am not employed in any government entity. Alienating the People is not an answer and only creates more problems in the future in various forms of distrust. Should an event happen, there is no militia to answer.

Those who served in the military have high respects, and so do police, fire fighters in all branches and jurisdictions. Even then, the militia is also utilized still, in some way. My county utilizes a form of volunteer's, a militia, to help the county sheriff's, and other counties in Oregon in various capacity. Militia comes in various forms, and shotguns is not always what is required to be in a militia.

Don't allow the division, vote this down.