

February 24, 2015

From: David L. Teska
To: Kansas Senate – Committee on Transportation
Subject: TESTIMONY FOR SB 173

Members of the Committee on Transportation, thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of SB 173. My name is David L. Teska and I originated the concept of behind Senate Bill 173. I have over 30 years of active and reserve service in the Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and since 1990 the U.S. Coast Guard. In 1992 I deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm with the Coast Guard. I am performing Coast Guard Reserve duty in Washington, DC this week so am not able to testify in person. I would like to thank Senator Tom Holland, whom I contacted with this proposal, and his staff for their support of this legislation.

Our State has a long and historic connection with the U.S. military. Today, two of the Army's most storied installations, Fort Riley, home of the famed 1st Infantry Division, and Fort Leavenworth, the Army's oldest continuously operating fort west of Washington, DC – are in Kansas. The Air Force's McConnell Air Force Base near Wichita has served our nation since 1941.

Kansas recognizes its veterans with a U.S. Veteran license plate as well as with plates that honor Pearl Harbor Survivors, Disabled Veterans, Ex-Prisoner of War, and recipients of the Purple Heart. The only conflict-specific plate it has is for Vietnam Veterans. Kansans have served honorably in recent conflicts either as members of the active military, Kansas National Guard, or Reserves. These Kansas veterans should also have a distinctive plate. I reviewed neighboring states of examples of military license plates and found Missouri, Iowa, and Colorado each have a wide variety of distinctive and attractive license plates for the residents who are veterans and who qualify. An example of Colorado's military-specific plates can be found at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv/license-plates-military>.

SB 173 proposes Kansas adopt four distinct military license plates for veterans of:

- Korean War
- Operation Desert Storm:
- Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan)

I would like to make these clarifications and adjustments to SB 173:

1. Rename the Korean War license plate to the *Korean War Veteran* plate. It is for service in the Korean War (June 27, 1950 - July 27, 1954), http://www.apd.army.mil/pdf/files/r600_8_22.pdf.

2. Rename the Operation Desert Storm plate to the *Operations Desert Shield/Storm* plate. It is for any veteran of Operation Desert Shield or Desert Storm (Aug 2, 1990 – Nov 30, 1995), <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2008-title32-vol3/xml/CFR-2008-title32-vol3-sec578-27.xml>.
3. Rename the Operation Iraqi Freedom plate to the *Iraq War Veteran* plate. It is for any service member who served in the Iraq War from March 20, 2003 to December 31, 2011; Operation Iraqi Freedom transitioned to Operation New Dawn which lasted from September 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011, <http://www.defense.gov/releases/release.aspx?releaseid=14619>.
4. Rename the Operation Enduring Freedom to the *Afghanistan War Veteran* plate. It is for any veteran of the Afghanistan War (September 11, 2001 – to a date to be determined), <http://asktop.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/OSDPR-signed-Memo-ACM-Transition-I-Campaign-Phase-Oct-26-2011.pdf>.
5. I'm embarrassed to say that I overlooked veterans of World War II when developing this proposal and would like a fifth license plate *World War II Veteran*. It is for veterans of World War II who served between Dec. 7, 1941 and Dec. 31, 1946, http://www.apd.army.mil/pdf/files/r600_8_22.pdf.

Eligible veterans for any of these distinctive license plates would have to show proof of eligibility from the Department of Defense or their service with a Form DD 214 or other official documentation of wartime service.

An example of military-specific plates can be found at the Colorado Department of Revenue military license plates page: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv/license-plates-military>.

Again, thank for this opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 173. I urge you to honor those Kansans who have served during America's wars of the 20th and 21st Century by supporting this legislation establishing these five distinctive veteran license plates.