

House Bill 2020 – Hearing – February 18, 2021

Good Morning Chairman **Clark** and thank you for allowing me to testify. I'll introduce myself as Colonel(Retired)Lynn Rolf ,a Leavenworth Kansas Veteran who served 31 years in the U.S. Army and 20 years as an Army Civilian since graduating from West Point in 1970. I continue to serve our Veteran community thru the VFW, Legion, DAV, VVA and AMVETS.

Today I'm presenting on behalf of our Nations Heroes in honoring them not only when they come home from war or after serving their Nation, but in their final days of medical care and need before they ultimately are called home. WE indeed need a third Soldier's Home in NE Kansas.

In the early 1880's, shortly after the Civil War, the citizens and elected officials of Leavenworth raised over \$50,000 to buy 360 acres of land sitting atop of the Missouri River which was the construction site (in 1885) of the Western Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the **first** "Old Soldiers Home" west of the Mississippi River. Its time for a new home here in NE Kansas..we have done far less than our surrounding states in how they support their vets.

When said and done what may seem like just another bill to some will mean so much more to others. There are only currently two state-run Veteran homes in Kansas and they are old conversions from existing facilities..not a brand new long care facility.. Bill 2020 must result in the third.

Let's give our aging Veterans throughout northeast Kansas a place to call home... before they are ultimately called home.

Thank you!