

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Boone, Esquivel, Freeman, Komp, Matthews, Riley, Weidner, Cowan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	David Molina, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Designates May 8 of each year as Military Family Appreciation Day. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The need to recognize and honor the sacrifice of Oregon's men and women and their loved ones who have served their communities and country during times of peace and war
- The need to build and share resources in communities across Oregon to support loved ones left behind due to long deployments
- Importance of planned community activities throughout Oregon to raise awareness of military families
- Widespread support among Oregon National Guard/Reserve citizen-soldiers, veterans and their families, veterans service organizations, public officials, business and community leaders

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Renames designation to Military Family Appreciation Day. Adds an emergency clause, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND: Oregonians have had a long-standing tradition of serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. Oregonians participated in the Civil War, with the state having formed its first militia company in 1843. Thereafter, they have served in every major conflict, approximately:

- 1,650 in the Spanish-American War
- 44,166 in World War I
- 152,000 in World War II
- 74,000 in the Korean War
- 118,000 in the Vietnam War

As of June 30, 2008, approximately 21,731 Oregonians had served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and on a monthly average between three to five hundred citizen-soldiers return from overseas assignments. The lack of active-duty military bases is offset with National Guard/Reserve forces, a majority of whose members are older in age and have families. Previous conflicts have required one tour of active duty from non-married male citizens. The current operating environment often demands several tours of duty from Oregon's military families, many who are married with children and are deployed for long periods of time.

Oregon's 360,000 veterans are a testament to peace and war. House Bill 2762 A recognizes and honors the sacrifice, support and dedication of the families of Oregon's men and women who have served, past and present, in order to defend the United States Constitution, and to preserve the liberties that all Americans and Oregonians cherish.

3/24/2009 11:10:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.