

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Monnes Anderson, Olsen, President Courtney, Boquist
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/16, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Designates June 25 of each year Korean War Veterans Honor Day.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Korean War referred to as “The Forgotten War”
- Specific examples of Korean War service
- Response of Korean War veterans to measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Shortly before dawn on June 25, 1950, North Korea attacked and invaded South Korea. Within days, President Truman authorized use of American land, sea and air forces in support of South Korea. Fighting continued until July 27, 1953 when negotiations finally yielded a cease-fire agreement. Over 36,000 Americans lost their lives in the Korean War, including hundreds of Oregonians. More than 100,000 Americans were wounded and nearly 5,000 are still listed as missing in action.

The Korean War is often called the Forgotten War. In the early 1950’s, Americans seemed to still be recovering from World War II and were reluctant to engage in another military conflict. Moreover, Korea was relatively unfamiliar to many Americans. When Korean War veterans returned home there was little said or done to honor their service. Many Korean War veterans believed they were expected to simply reintegrate on their own, with barely any recognition of their contributions during the war.

Senate Bill 951 honors Korean War veterans for their service by naming June 25 of each year Korean War Veterans Honor Day.