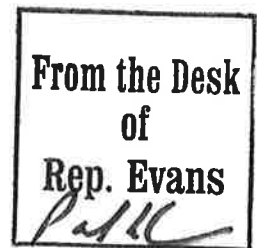


**Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20**



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 11, 2015

Oregon State Senate
Oregon House of Representatives
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Colleagues:

We celebrated Oregon Military Family Appreciation Day with a small ceremony at the Capitol on Friday, May 8th. This date, established by House Bill 2762-A during the 2009 Legislative Assembly dedicated for the purposes of bringing communities together to learn about the challenges facing military families in the modern era.

We have been at war since 2001. After 14 years of continuous deployments around the globe our military families are exhausted. On top of that, the US Department of Veterans' Affairs has struggled to meet obligations to past generations of veterans – and has not been able to catch up to the needs of this generation of veterans. Right now we have veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan living next door to us in every community, in every legislative district throughout Oregon.

Though we have worked hard to serve our veterans – I believe we can do better leveraging our state resources with federal programming and support. However, to achieve this we must find ways to communicate more effectively with each other through an enduring relationship outside of the formal committee structure. It is time we form a bicameral, bipartisan “Veterans’ Caucus” within the Oregon Legislature.

Together as a team – veterans and non-veterans can facilitate a greater understanding and refine our services delivery mechanics. The mission of the caucus is simple: share what we know and help each other – help the men and women we sent to war. We can review ideas, share lessons learned about constituent assistance, and learn as an informal sounding board. I hope that we can foster a collaborative approach and find new opportunities that can bring our nation, state, and communities together.

Thank you for your consideration. If you are interested in helping us establish this caucus let us know. We need you!

Respectfully,

Paul L. Evans
Oregon House of Representatives
District 20