

SB993 Testimony

In one of the final scenes of Gladiator, Lucilla, Marcus Aurelia's daughter, asks a question; " Is Rome worth one good man's life? We believed it once. Make us believe it again. He was a soldier of Rome. Honor him."

We have veterans who crawled through all kinds of blood, gore and horrors we cannot imagine, And now you the elected legislators of Oregon have an opportunity to honor the Oregon Purple Heart veterans.

My generation fought a war in Viet Nam. A lot of my friends never came home. And a lot of the ones, who did make it home never left Viet Nam. They continue to live in their bunker, they continue to have nightmares every night, haunted by their memories. When they came home, they were reviled and called all kinds of names. not only were they wounded by the war, they were wounded again, by the country who asked them to serve, to sacrifice their minds, their hearts, their lives.

Most people never get a chance to right a dreadful wrong, but what you do here today, will live beyond your time in office, what you do today, honoring these Purple Heart veterans will bring some healing to those who were wounded and the families of the veterans, who laid it all down to serve a nation. What you do here today, touches many veterans and their families. Honor and respect is the best way to say thank you, to these wounded warriors for their sacrifice.

Now I ask you; is Oregon worth, many good men's sacrifices? Oregon believed it once. Make us believe it again. They were soldiers, sailors, airmen of Oregon, wounded doing their duty. Now honor them. I ask you to support SB993 designating one day, Purple Heart day.

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