

Testimony to Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Regarding HB 2880

May 9, 2017

I oppose HB 2880 that will require the POW/MIA flag be flown along with the Oregon state flag to include all other county, municipal school district, and special district buildings.

I served in the Marines from 1967 to 1970 and my brother also a Marine was awarded a Silver Star Medal for his actions in Hue City during the Tet Offensive before he was killed in action on March 31, 1968. The POW/MIA flag does not honor my brother nor the other 58,000 Americans who died in that war. The flag has been used by groups who feel that the government has hidden the facts dealing with prisoners of war in Vietnam.

The fact of war is that there are always MIA's; how is what happened in Vietnam any different than number of MIA's in WW1, WWII and Korea?

For many of us who served, fought, and lost loved ones in Vietnam the POW/MIA flag remains disturbing and does a disservice to our sacrifices by turning them into nothing more than an object for their political ends.

This piece of legislation is unnecessary as we already have a flag that pays homage to all those that served; I believe we refer to it as "Old Glory." To approve this measure is to turn the flag pole it flies on into a message board for political purposes and promote discord. On the other hand by turning this measure down you are saying to all those that served, and will in the future, we honor all and will not allow your service be used by any one group for political ends.

Thank you
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