



February 19, 2019

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position**

HB 2195: Relating to establishing a Vietnam War Memorial at the State Capitol State Park

Clackamas County supports HB 2195: The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2195, which would establish a memorial near the State Capitol honoring veterans of the Vietnam War.

Clackamas County honors veterans by providing resources through the Clackamas County Veterans Service Office and by prioritizing housing for homeless veterans. The County also maintains a Circle of Honor on the county's Red Soils campus, which provides an "area of reflection to honor all veterans of Clackamas County who have given of themselves in service and to those families whose loved ones gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives." The POW/MIA flag flies daily within the Circle of Honor.

In 2016, Clackamas County relocated a memorial to the Circle of Honor to commemorate the service of Specialist Larry Dahl, a former Clackamas County resident who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his brave actions during the Vietnam War.

Additionally, county commissioners continue working toward the goal of ensuring that all homeless veterans in Clackamas County are sheltered by the end of 2019. As part of that effort, county commissioners invested in the development of the Clackamas County Veterans Village, a transitional community of 15 small shelters designed to provide stable housing for homeless veterans. The county provides these veterans with support services aimed at helping them work toward permanent housing. To date, five residents of the Veterans Village have transitioned to permanent housing.

Making investments to honor veterans provides constant reminders about the sacrifices that are required to protect freedoms Oregonians experience daily, and preserves the memory of those who served.

We urge a "Yes" vote for HB 2195.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.