



## Oregon State Council

### Testimony in favor of SB 319

The Oregon State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America strongly endorses SB 319 currently under consideration in the Oregon legislature. We have been supporters of this project since it was first conceived.

This project will build a statewide memorial to the sacrifices made by Oregonians in the Vietnam war. It will recognize those who paid the ultimate sacrifice as well as those who continue to suffer some fifty years after returning home.

Vietnam veterans are now the gray-haired old veterans in our country. We returned home to protests, anger and blame – not thanks for serving our country. The war followed many of us home with the effects of Agent Orange and PTSD. In many respects, some Vietnam veterans have never truly come home.

As participants in this project, we want to build a memorial that will tell our story for the sake of the younger generations. It is appropriate that this memorial be placed on the grounds of the Oregon State Capitol. This will enable our state residents to understand the struggles of Vietnam veterans and perpetuate the history and lessons of the Vietnam War for generations to come.

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