



PRESS RELEASE

REP. JEFF BARKER

SEN. LEE BEYER

REP. PAUL EVANS

REP. JOHN LIVELY

SEN. JAMES MANNING

REP. MARK MEEK

SEN. LAURIE MONNES ANDERSON

REP. JEFF REARDON

SEN. CHUCK RILEY

REP. MARTY WILDE

For Immediate Release

Nov. 11, 2020

Military Veterans in the Oregon Legislature Call for Unity on Veterans Day

SALEM – Oregon House and Senate Democratic military veterans – Rep. Jeff Barker (D-Aloha), Sen. Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), Rep. Paul Evans (D-Monmouth and Independence), Rep. John Lively (D-Springfield), Sen. James Manning (D-Eugene), Rep. Mark Meek (D-Oregon City), Rep. Jeff Reardon (D-Happy Valley), Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham), Sen. Chuck Riley (D-Hillsboro) and Rep. Marty Wilde (D-Central Lane and Linn Counties) - issued the following statement on this Veterans Day:

“Veterans Day 2020 will be remembered as one of the most important civil holidays in recent history as we are a nation coming to terms with the lingering feelings, frustrations, and worries about the unknown.

“This Veterans Day is an opportunity for all of us who swore the oath or stood a post to demonstrate how Americans can work together in common cause – regardless of party, ideology or faith. We need to heal from a time of prolonged division, and we vow to lead by example and center our shared values: duty, honor, country, and service to others.”

“Veterans know that whatever the party, personality, or philosophy, we are one family. We fight together, we pray together, we sacrifice together, and in the darkest of times we mourn together. It is time that we show the nation, state, and our communities the relative value of service in human terms. Veterans know that we can disagree – at times in a robust manner – and still be ready, willing, and determined to protect one another.

“We know that above all else we are united through an unbreakable bond. We are united in devotion to performing our duty to defend the United States Constitution and the values enshrined in that document, and all who call this great nation home against all enemies. We the undersigned, are state legislators who have sworn an oath to serve our state and communities, and we are veterans who put America first. Our people, our place, and our principles remain in our shared custody.

“Let us celebrate this Veterans Day for the opportunities we have before us rather than the challenges we have just overcome. We have a democratic republic that remains the envy of the world when we remember to stay true to what President Lincoln termed “our better angels.” Let us work together in common cause to bring peace to a troubled land, one day – and each act of conscious effort to respect our divergent perspectives – at a time.

“Together we pledge to do this to the best of our ability. We ask for each and every person who reads this letter to join us in the making of a more perfect Union.”

To learn more about resources and benefits available to veterans living here in Oregon, visit the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs website at [Oregon.gov/ODVA](https://oregon.gov/ODVA), or connect with a Resource Navigator by calling (800) 692-9666. In addition, learn more about the effort to build a Vietnam War Memorial on the grounds of the Oregon State Capitol at VietnamWarMemorialFund.org.

###