



Senate Majority Office
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Democrats Stand for Oregon Veterans and Their Families

Bills to honor fallen veterans and ensure their remains receive proper burial delayed by the unconstitutional Republican walkout

SALEM, Ore - This Memorial Day, Legislative Democrats are advocating for numerous bills held up by the Senate Republicans' unconstitutional walkout that would honor and support Oregon veterans and the democracy they fought to defend.

At risk is legislation that would memorialize fallen veterans, ensure veterans who have died receive a proper burial, boost veteran-owned businesses, and help military families afford college.

"This weekend, we honor the brave Americans who gave their lives to protect our democracy. As elected officials, we have a sacred duty to the people, especially our veterans and military families, to do our jobs and uphold our Constitution," said **Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D – Eugene)**, chair of the **Senate Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs Committee who was an active duty service member for the U.S. Army for 24 years, with multiple tours in South Korea, Australia, Japan, Honduras, and Panama.**

"Veterans know better than anyone else that when you take an oath to serve, you show up and fight for the people you represent," said **Representative Paul Evans (D-Monmouth/Independence)**, a veteran who served for the **United States Air Force for over 20 years. During that time, he participated in combat missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.** "As Senate Republicans take a tax-payer funded vacation, they're putting their own partisan self-interests above the people who lost their lives fighting for the rights and freedoms we have today."

Legislation supporting Oregon veterans and military families threatened by the unconstitutional Republican walkout includes, but is not limited to:

- [HB 2147](#): Ensures unclaimed veterans' remains are properly interred. Honors our fallen veterans and brings them home to be laid to rest.
- [HB 2295](#): Gives all veterans procurement preference in public contracting. This bill was developed and brought forward by veterans.
- [HB 2144](#): Expands qualification for fallen hero roadside memorials. These families shouldn't have to wait for a Senate return to honor their fallen loved ones.
- [HB 2865](#): Changes the training leave allotment of our current National Guard and military members who are public employees from 15 days to 21 days (mirrors Washington State). This will be an absolute game changer for these folks who selflessly give of their time to train and serve. Right now, our brave servicemembers are having to use their personal, vacation, and sick leave accruals to complete required training to serve our country.
- [HB 3421](#): Requires that the state commemorations of Memorial Day and Veterans Day be held and requires public access to such commemorations.
- [SB 1032](#): Establishes a new education program through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for spouses and dependents of eligible Oregon National Guard members to receive full grant funding to pay for tuition, some fees and a book allowance for community college, undergraduate and certain certification programs, and public universities in Oregon.
- [SB 178](#): 21 states currently exempt military pensions from state income taxes, while Oregon only partially does. SB 178 would study policy proposals for the tax treatment of military pensions.
- [SB 884](#): Expands and increases property tax exemption for certain veterans with disabilities or service-connected disability.
- [SB 1009](#): Funds \$35 million for a veterans home that would provide long-term care in Roseburg.

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