

State Representative Kim Thatcher

House District 25



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Disabled Veteran Works With Rep Thatcher to Help Others Get Special Oregon License Plates



(Salem) It's now easier for thousands of disabled veterans across Oregon to obtain a special [Disabled Veteran License Plate](#) issued by the state [Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division](#) (DMV) thanks to an 80-year old Keizer man. "I applaud Norman Cobb for his perseverance on this issue so positive changes could be made," said [State Representative Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg and St. Paul). "I am also grateful the agencies involved could resolve the problem so we didn't need to wait for reforms through the legislative process."

When Cobb went to a local DMV branch this past summer he was told he did not have the proper paperwork to qualify for a Disabled Veteran Plate. Cobb was a Sergeant in the Marine Corps from 1949-1952. He gave DMV two documents from the federal government including an Honorable Discharge DD Form 214 and a letter from the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) verifying his service-connected disability.

After numerous unsuccessful calls to DMV officials Cobb contacted Representative Thatcher's office asking for help. "Her staff worked some sort of political magic and within a couple of weeks I was advised that my documents would be formally accepted by DMV," said Cobb. His new plates recently arrived in the mail and are now proudly displayed on his vehicle.

"This is a great example of [two state agencies working together](#) to help Oregon's disabled veterans," said DMV Administrator Tom McClellan. "Representative Thatcher brought it to our attention, and we quickly found a solution with help from our partners at the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs. It's a win-win for everyone involved."

Thatcher's staff asked DMV and the [Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs](#) to review the current law regarding eligibility for Disabled Veteran Plates ([ORS 805.100](#)). The two agencies were able to update policies and add more flexibility on which documents would be acceptable to issue Disabled Veteran License Plates.

"DMV and the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs have always worked closely on the veteran license plate program," explained [ODVA Director Jim Willis](#). "We're very happy that we've been able to clarify what documents veterans need to obtain their disabled veteran license plates and look forward to our continued partnership with DMV."

DMV implemented a new policy this month and updated the Application for Disabled Veteran Plates ([Form 735-6736](#)) on the agency's website. The revised forms will soon be available at DMV branches as well. The Application for Disabled Veteran Plates now reads: "You must provide proof that you are a disabled veteran and that the qualifying disability is connected with service in the Armed Forces of the United States. Proof is considered any document or letter, including a DD214, from the US Department of Veterans Affairs or branch of the Armed Forces of the United States that certifies a service-connected disability."

Cobb has a message for other veterans. "If you run into a bureaucratic brick wall don't take 'no' for an answer. Instead, contact your member of the Legislature. You may be in for a pleasant surprise. I remain convinced that without Representative Thatcher's help I would have surrendered to the whims of the bureaucracy and the 'veteran' plates would remain beyond my reach."

46,700 Oregon veterans have a disability rating from the federal government. There are currently 27,400 Disabled Veteran License Plates issued in the state, the largest number of any of the ten plates designated for veterans or active duty members of the military. DMV charges a one-time \$15 fee for Disabled Veteran Plates. The others are more expensive, starting at \$86 every two years.

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