

LATE TESTIMONY

Public Testimony

Representative Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Issac W. Choy, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

Allen K. Hoe, Vietnam Combat Veteran, Gold Star Father, Patriot

Thursday, March 25, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 312

Support for HCR 175 and HR 110, Urging Congress to Designate the "Honor and Remember Flag" as a National Symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to Honoring and Remembering the lives of all members of the US Armed Forces who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Aloha my name is Allen Hoe, I have worn many different hats during my 63 years, two of which I have done so with great pride was the "Steel Pot" which I wore in Combat in Vietnam 42 years ago while assigned to the Recon Platoon of the 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. These days I also wear the hat I wear today in honor and remembrance of the nearly two dozen young American warriors who lost their lives while standing at my side in battle to fulfill our country's commitment to democracy and liberty.

This hat also as a very special meaning for me these days as it also served as a measure of pride for my young sons Nainoa and Nakoa who were raised in the proud tradition of service to ones country.

I think, it may have perhaps meant more to my son Nainoa than me on occasion, for when he earned his "US Army Ranger" Tab he called to request that I wear it for him when I attended his Ranger graduation ceremony at Liberty Pond at Ft. Benning on March 14, 2004. A young Hawaiian boy a US Army Ranger and proud citizen soldier.

Hawaii's young men and women have for decades led the way in service to their country, it's goals and ideals of freedom and democracy, my grandfathers served in WWI, my father in WWII my cousins in Korea and Vietnam, from the historic legacy of the Go For Broke warriors of the 100th Battalion, to the many who made up the "Army All Hawaii Company" of the 60's.

As our political leaders you have also demonstrated your commitment to these ideals. One of which I am most grateful was repeated earlier this week with the presentation of the Hawaii Medal of Honor to the family and loved ones of those who gave the most precious gift to us who are here today, the gift of their last full measure of service to their country.

The Resolution being considered today is another one of those special opportunities which has presented it self which is worthy of your consideration and support. I humbly

request that you once again demonstrate to the rest of the Nation, Hawaii's resolve and commitment to honor those whose memory we will cherish for ever for their gift of freedom to the world.

My request is in keeping with the following statement of the organization heading the effort of the Honor and Remember Flag in Congress:

Mission: To create, establish and promote a nationally recognized flag that would fly continuously as a visible reminder to all Americans of the lives lost in defense of our national freedoms. All Military lives lost not only in action but also in service, from our nation's inception.

Rationale: In our over 200 year history there has never been an official national symbol that recognizes in gratitude and respect the ultimate sacrifice made by members of the United States military in service to our nation. The Honor and Remember Flag was created for that purpose.

Goals:

1. To promote the vision of the Honor and Remember Flag and request that visitors to the website sign a petition and pass the word about the importance of this new symbol.
2. To build a consensus among the branches of the United States military, veterans organizations, service and civic groups, businesses and individuals in order to collectively solicit the Department of Defense and the United States Congress to propose and accept the Honor and Remember Flag as the official flag for honoring all fallen servicemen and servicewomen.
3. To promote broad national awareness of and groundswell interest in the flag, so that military, government and educational facilities as well as households throughout the country would begin flying the Honor and Remember Flag in recognition of our nation's fallen warriors.
4. To place one personalized Honor and Remember Flag in the hands of immediate families who have lost a loved one in military service to America.

Respectfully,

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