

JOHN DUNN TESTIMONY FOR HB 2036

To Whom It May Concern

My name is John G Dunn and I am writing this note to you in support of my life long friend, Dick Miller, in his attempt to support disabled veterans in Kansas and specifically in support of House Bill No. 2036. Dick and I grew up about one block apart in Hutchinson and we have remained close friends throughout our lives.

As I stated, I grew up in Hutchinson and graduated from the University of Kansas in Jan 1966. I enlisted in the Army in February 1966 and was selected to attend Infantry OCS. I then attended two Intelligence Courses and deployed to Vietnam in October 1967. I was assigned to a nine man advisory team at Di Ling District, Lam Dong Province. On March 18, I and two other Americans were advising an ARVN company on a road clearing operation and we walked into a very nicely executed ambush. I was hit almost immediately with an RPG and I thought my right arm was blown off. It wasn't but I had no use of it. My Sargent was hit shortly after that and was killed instantly. The situation continued to deteriorate and my RTO and I were hit again with fragments from a hand grenade and my left arm was for the most part useless. Shortly thereafter the lead platoon jumped up and surrendered and we were overrun and captured. My RTO died in prison camp and I spent the remainder of the war in prison camps in South Vietnam and Cambodia. After the war, I stayed in the Army and retired in October 1988.

When I retired the VA did an evaluation and I was rated at 60%. Over the years because of PTSD and other ailments related to Vietnam, my VA rating was increased to 100%. I have lived in Miami, Florida for about 23 years and in Florida, because of my VA Disability Rating, I do not have to pay property taxes.

My wife and I have thought about moving back to Hutchinson as we get older simply because the health care is less expensive than in Miami. However, in Florida, I do not pay property taxes, there are no property taxes on automobiles, there is no state income tax and our sales tax in Miami-Dade County is 7%. As it now stands, I believe that my expenses would be higher in Kansas even considering higher medical costs.

I urge you to support Mr. Miller in his effort to pass House Bill No. 2036 or a similar piece of legislation for two reasons. One, it might attract other disabled veterans to move to Kansas and two, and more importantly, it is morally the correct position to take care of disabled veterans who put their lives on the line for our country.

Thank you,

John G Dunn