

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,
My name is Darlene Lillo.

I am a **Volunteer** member of the Gage Park Memorial group in Topeka, Kansas who believe's it is important, if not our duty, to remember those who have and are currently serving in our Military. We are a 501 (C) (3) organization. I am submitting this written testimony in support of HB2148.

Gage Park Memorial is a memorial to honor our veterans and their families. All War Eras are represented at the memorial.

Gage Park Memorial has an All-War Memorial, HOMGE, placed in June of 2-2016 as a center piece which was designed by Lawrence Artist Jim Brothers. There are also monuments representing the WWI and Korea wars and soon we will have the addition of a WWII monument!

Our next fund-raising monies will go toward a Vietnam monument.

Gage Park Memorial has multiple fund-raisers each year. Bricks can be purchased for \$50 each which have individual Veterans names and military info engraved on them. These bricks serve as an outer sidewalk around the memorial. This fund-raiser is year-round. We hold an annual Car Show in September at the memorial as well as an annual Motorcycle ride in October that leaves from the memorial.

Kansas House Bill 2148 will provide a sales tax exemption for Gage Park Memorial, Inc.

Currently, **K.S.A 79-3606, exempt sales**, does not allow 501 (C) (19) Veteran Organizations to receive the same tax status as many other 501 (C) non-profit organizations. Many organizations are allowed tax exemption certificates directed by Statute, whereas veterans service organizations are not. The amount of money that these organizations could save on sales tax would go directly to meet their mission of support, to further recognition and remembrance for our veterans.

Gage Park Memorial would save over \$5000 on the WWII memorial we are now in process of raising monies for. This \$5000 would be a great start in fund raising for the next monument for our Vietnam Veterans.

HB2148 provides a sales tax exemption for Gage Park Veterans Memorial, Inc., amending **K.S.A. 79-3606, Exempt Sales** and allows us to receive the same tax status as many other 501 (C) non-profit organizations. Many organizations are allowed tax exemption certificates directed by Statute, some examples include the Ottawa Suzuki Strings and the Frontenac Education Foundation.

We feel if such organizations benefit from tax exemption, Gage Park Memorial should as well. Our mission to remember and commemorate Veterans who have served as well as currently serving, is honorable and right.

To Remember is to Honor. We will Remember. It is Our Duty.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment for sales tax exemption status and thank you, for all you do for our veterans every day.

If unable to visit the Memorial area, please look us up on Face Book, Gage Park Memorial. There you will see multiple pictures of many of our Veterans along with their families and friends. The stories we hear from our Veterans are heartwarming. Some have family and friends leaving in aw, not ever hearing many of the stories told at the Memorial.

Thank you for your support.

Thank You.

For more information you can contact Darlene Lillo at GPMemorial@yahoo.com.