

Testimony

Subject: House Bill 2558

Greetings and thank you for this opportunity to speak in reference to the Armed services Occupation Medal license plate. House Bill No. 2558

I have come before you today to request that an Army of Occupation Medal license plate be made available to those of us who have served in occupied territory. Currently the Kansas DOV does not offer the Army of Occupation for Berlin and WWII veterans who have received this, Medal. The creation of many military License plates is an integral part of demonstrating Kansas support of our military personnel.

As you may know the Vietnam veterans now have a plate bearing their Medal for the Vietnam conflict. Having served in Berlin in an occupying force capacity it would be an honor and privilege to have the Army of Occupation Medal displayed on license plates. I am sure the Purple Heart recipients, Iraq veterans, Vietnam veterans and numerous other veterans proudly display their license plates.

Hear is a little history of the Occupation Medal. Although authorized in 1946, it was not until 1947 that the first Army of Occupation Medals were distributed. The first medal was presented to General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, who had been the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force Commander during World War II.

Because of the legal status of West Berlin as an occupied territory until the unification of Germany the Occupation Medal was issued for forty-five years making it one of the longest active military awards of both the Second World war and the Cold War.

The ribbon consists of equal portions of red and black with white edge stripes. The colors are taken from the American Campaign Medal, where they appear as pinstripes inside each edge. The red and whites represent Japan and black and white represent Germany, the primary opponents for the United States during the Second World War, and the primary countries occupied after the war.

In closing I would like to thank the Committee for listening to our request for this license Plate.

Whatever your decision it is an honor and privilege to have been here today to stand before a congress that respects and honors its veterans.

God bless you and this Great nation.

I stand for questions.

Very Respectfully,

Alan Thagard
SFC, US Army Retired

"For those who wish to reap the benefits of this great nation must also bear the fatigue of supporting it" Thomas Paine

"My word is my promise, it requires no disclaimer, no qualifier" Alan Thagard, US Army Retired