

\*House Committee\*

## COMMITTEE MINUTES for VETERANS AFFAIRS

Date: *March 26, 2019*

Location: *RM 19*

Convened: *3:00 PM*

Recessed: *3:05 PM*

Reconvened: *3:10 PM*

Adjourned: *3:20 PM*

### Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Representatives Salmon-CH, Gustafson-VC, Kurth-RM, Bennett, Breckenridge, Brown-Powers, Gaines, Hite, Jeneary, Kacena, Lundgren, Ourth, Smith, M., Sorensen, Thompson, Wheeler, Wills

Absent:

Excused:

Chairperson Salmon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Roll call was taken.

The minutes were approved.

There were no bills to assign.

Both parties went to caucus at 3:05 P.M. The committee reconvened at 3:10 P.M.

Chairperson Salmon recognized Representative Sorensen for opening remarks on [SF 280](#), a bill relating to the residency of members of the armed forces stationed at specified military installations for purposes of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges.

Discussion was opened on [SF 280](#). Rep. Breckenridge urged his caucus to support the bill. With no further discussion, Chairperson Salmon recognized Rep. Sorensen for closing remarks on [SF 280](#). Rep. Sorensen moved the bill. The bill was moved and passed by a vote of 17 Aye, 0 Nay, and 0 Absent. The bill will move to the House floor as a Veterans Affairs Committee bill.

Chairperson Salmon turned the floor over to Representative Ourth who read the story of Corporal Thomas William Bennett. Corp. Bennett was in class with Rep. Ourth's dad at Graceland College. Corp. Bennett's deep religious beliefs led him to enlist in the Vietnam War as a "conscientious objector" who was opposed to killing, but willing to serve. Corp. Bennett, who trained as a field medic, used his training to repeatedly rescue members of his infantry; most times risking his own life in the process. Corp. Bennett was fatally wounded on February 11, 1970, when he attempted to reach a soldier who had been shot by a sniper. President Richard Nixon awarded the posthumous Medal of Honor to Corp. Bennett's mother and stepfather on April 7, 1970.

As there was no further business to come before the committee, Representative Smith moved to adjourn at 3:20 p.m.

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Representative Sandy Salmon

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Susan R. Foster, Committee Secretary