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**NATE BUTLER**  
68TH DISTRICT

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and Committee,

My name is Nate Butler, Representative, 68th District. I am providing testimony in support of HB 2482. More than just a proponent, I am here as a Big Red One Soldier. It was an honor to have been assigned to Fort Riley on three different occasions. During one of those assignments, I deployed to Desert Sheild/Desert Storm as the Medical Platoon Leader of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment. Our cavalry squadron served as the eyes and ears for the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, and the 7<sup>th</sup> Corps. The morning the ground war started, the cavalry squadron was to breach the berm and the oil field obstacles. During the first 24 hours of combat my unit was expected to lose 75% of our men. However, we had only one casualty and later that day a soldier received a noncombat injury. On the last night of combat, as we pushed forward to our last objective, our squadron captured several hundred enemy prisoners of war. Additionally, that night, as far as I am aware, my medical platoon treated the only reported mass casualty within the Division Area of Operation. We captured the airfield and set up for the peace talks and the arrival of Gen Schwarzkopf. The men of the squadron, and the men and women of the Division stood strong and fought valiantly in the face of danger. Throughout the years and even today, men and women have and continue to deploy into harm's way. At all times, they live the motto: No Mission Too Difficult, No Sacrifice Too Great, Duty First.

On February 1, 2002, after several assignments and 22 years of service, my active-duty time in the Army came to an end. On that day I retired at Fort Riley, Kansas. I received my DD 214 and faded into the sunset. Today, I stand proudly with other men and women of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division who may currently be serving, have retired, or have just completed their commit, and now live in Kansas. These men and women now want to share their pride of having been a soldier in the Division.

This bill, HB2482, to provide for the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Distinctive License Plate, is one small way that the men and women of the Big Red One, can display their pride. I hope to be one of the first to place a 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division plate on my truck.

In just a moment, you will hear from someone who may be prouder than I am to be a Big Red One soldier. I am grateful that she has been able to take time from her work to be here to testify in favor of this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee, for hearing this bill. I hope that this bill will pass out of the committee with a unanimous vote of affirmation.

Duty First,

  
Mr. Chairman, I will stand for questions.