

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TREVOR JACOBS  
4TH DISTRICT

Thank You, Chairman Proehl, and Transportation Committee, for giving me this opportunity to appear before you on behalf of HB2592.

In March of 1919, the American Legion was founded, chartered and incorporated by Congress as a nonprofit organization lead by veterans of World War I. The American Legion has a vision of patriotism and honor, promoting programs that would mentor youth while advocating for stronger communities, and stronger national security and a service for fellow service members and veterans.

Hundreds of communities across the state have been positively impacted by the generosity of the American Legion and its volunteers. The American Legion baseball program is a benefit that teaches young people about sportsmanship, teamwork, and self-discipline.

Another valuable attribute of the American Legion is its program "Operation Comfort Warriors." This is a supporting program that brings "comfort items" for families and wounded warriors that are in the hospital. The attempt is to make the hospital rooms feel a little more like the comfort of home. The Legion has also raised millions of dollars in donations to help veterans and their families during the hard times and to even provide much-needed college scholarship opportunities. The American Legion stands as a nonpartisan, not-for-profit voice that advocates for the best treatment and care that our valued veterans deserve. What drives the American Legion and its many successes for this volunteer organization is the participation and membership of these dedicated man and women to further the cause of strong patriotism and service to their beloved communities.

The American Legion is proud to serve its communities. And I would love to encourage them as we show our gratitude to them by giving them an opportunity to proudly display the "American Legion License Plate." Thank you for considering the passage of House Bill 2592.

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According to the website of, Legion.org

*I would like to call your attention to some of the many accomplishments of the American Legion.*

**May 8-10**

*St. Louis Caucus. "The American Legion" is adopted as the organization's official name. The Legion's draft preamble and constitution are approved.*

**June 9**

*The National Executive Committee adopts the Legion emblem.*

**Aug. 9, 1921**

*The Legion's efforts result in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration. Today, the Legion continues to lobby for adequate funding to cover medical, disability, education and other benefits for veterans.*

**June 15, 1923**

*The first "Flag Code" is drafted during a Legion conference in Washington. Congress adopts the code in 1942. Today, the Legion is at the forefront of efforts to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration.*

**Dec. 15, 1943**

*Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery starts to write in longhand, on Mayflower Hotel stationery in Washington, the first draft of what will later become the "GI Bill of Rights" – considered the Legion's single greatest legislative achievement.*

**June 22, 1944**

*President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs into law the original GI Bill, or Servicemen's Readjustment Act, ushering in monumental changes in U.S. society. Higher education becomes democratized after 8 million veterans go to school on the GI Bill, get better jobs, buy houses in the suburbs and raise families. For every dollar spent on educating veterans, the U.S. economy eventually gets \$7 back.*

**Sept. 1, 1966**

*The Legion voices great concern over the fate of prisoners of war in Vietnam. Today, the Legion urges a full accounting of all POWs and troops missing in action; and has formed a special group from among the nation's major veterans organizations to continue pressing for further resolution of this issue.*

**Aug. 26, 1982**

*The Legion presents a \$1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for construction of the Wall in Washington, becoming the largest single contributor to the project.*

**Oct. 11, 1990**

*The Legion creates the Family Support Network to assist families of service members deployed for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Middle East. Through local posts, the network offers a wide range of assistance, including financial assistance, mowing lawns, baby-sitting and more. Today, FSN continues to assist families affected by military activation and deployment.*

**Oct. 10-11, 2001:**

*The American Legion creates the American Legacy Scholarship Fund for children of military members killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.*

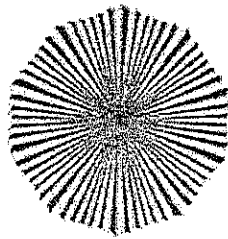
**June 30, 2008**

*President George W. Bush signs into law the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, a next-generation GI Bill strongly supported by the Legion. The bill renews the federal government's commitment to veterans by providing them with substantially better education benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill took effect Aug. 1, 2009, and sent an unprecedented number of veterans to college. Today, as at its formation, the Legion remains at the forefront of efforts to improve education and other benefits for all veterans.*

*"There shines the Emblem of The American Legion, it is your badge of distinction, honor and service. It stands for God and Country, and the highest rights of man. Of its several parts, each has a meaning."*

## Elements of the emblem

### The rays of the sun



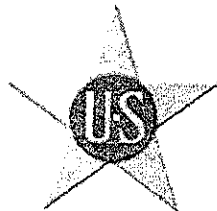
The rays of the sun form the background of our proud emblem and suggests the Legion's principles will dispel the darkness of violence and evil.

### The wreath



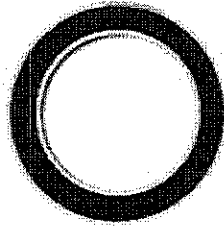
The wreath forms the center, in loving memory of those brave comrades who gave their lives in the service of the United States that liberty might endure.

### The star



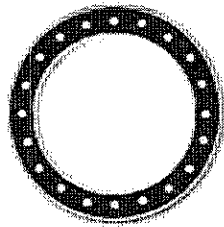
The star, victory symbol of World War I, also symbolizes honor, glory and constancy. The letters "U.S." leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's star.

### **Outer rings**



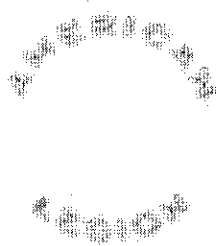
The larger of two outer rings stands for the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades.  
The smaller inside ring denotes the welfare of America's children.

### **Inner rings**



The smaller of two inner rings set upon the star represents service to our communities, states and the nation. The larger outer ring pledges loyalty to Americanism.

### **American Legion**



The words American Legion tie the whole together for truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism.