

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND
SECURITY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 P.M. on February 7, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Dick Kelsey- excused

Representative Kenny Wilk- excused

Committee staff present:

Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research

Betty Caruthers, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

George Webb, Executive Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Ruff moved, seconded by Representative Phelps for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security held on February 6, 2007 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers opened hearings on **HB 2302 - Kansas Veterans Health Act.**

Chairman Myers recognized Art Griggs, Revisor to give an explanation of the bill. This bill is to cover a wider span than just the Persian Gulf War. The name would be changed from the Persian Gulf War Initiative to the Kansas Veterans Health Act and there would be changes surrounding the make up of the Board, when it meets, as well as tasks to be accomplished.

Chairman Myers requested Athena Andaya, Research, to check on funding for this program and whether there are ongoing appropriation funds available prior to working the bill.

Chairman Myers recognized George Webb who testified as a proponent for the bill. (Attachment 1) He stated that although it might be helpful for the board to have more time to approve the changes in the bill, he had notified them of the changes and he is hopeful of this going through this session so the board make-up could be changed. George noted another concern which was the board meeting six times annually. He believed that would be a stretch and quarterly would be better.

Chairman Myers closed hearings on **HB 2302.**

Chairman Myers announced that there would be no meeting for this Committee tomorrow.

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 2:05.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12.