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NATE BUTLER  
68TH DISTRICT

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Testimony on HB 2256  
Submitted by Representative Nate Butler, 68<sup>th</sup> District

Mr. Chairman and Representatives of the Veterans and Military Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today as a proponent for the HB 2256. HB 2256 will provide military leaders with an opportunity to recognize military spouses for exceptional service to their installation and or their local communities. It allows special recognition of the spouse with a certificate signed by the Governor recognizing a job well done. A certificate the spouse can proudly display in their home as they move from installation to installation. It could even be a catalyst that might encourage the military family to return and settle in Kansas upon retirement from military service.

**History behind the bill:**

Two years ago, I was approached by a Brigade Commander from Fort Riley, about the possibility of getting a certificate from the Governor's office to recognize the spouse of one of his soldiers. The spouse had gone far above the usual efforts of a military spouse. This same commander had already approached the Governor's office only to be told there was no certificate available for such recognition. I let the commander know about the certificate available from the Speaker of the House. He wanted something more due to the intensity of the service performed. He then told me of how Texas recognizes spouses with the Order of the Yellow Rose.

The Order of the Yellow Rose is a certificate signed by the Governor of Texas, to recognize service by military spouses that have provided a significant service to the installation or surrounding communities. A certificate of this level goes a long way to build morale.

After learning about the Order of the Yellow Rose, I approached the Governor's office about coming up with a similar type of certificate to recognize significant accomplishments. The staff declined my request and recommended the certificate from the Speaker of the House.

**What will this certificate accomplish:**

We all like to be recognized for a job well done. Often times, military spouses are expected to volunteer with organizations that work to improve the installation or assist with families of deployed soldiers. Often these same spouses are congratulated and sent off with only a handshake and a certificate of appreciation from the local commander.

A certificate signed by the Governor would go much farther in recognizing the significant accomplishments. A certificate can help to build morale in a family that has been through several deployments and separations. This is a simple gesture that proves to the spouse that her or his efforts didn't go unrecognized.

**Total Cost:**

The Fiscal Note for this certificate will be negligible as explained by the Kansas Division of Budget. The boost it will give the spouse is immeasurable.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony. I ask the committee to approval HB 2256 and send it to the Floor.

Respectfully submitted,



Nate Butler

Representative, 68<sup>th</sup> District