

February 09, 2021

House Transportation

Chairman, Richard Proehl

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My dad honorably served our nation in the Air Force during the first Gulf War in the 90's. He was proud to serve our nation. Sadly, this service and servitude to our great nation have permanently affected him. He was honorably medically discharged from the Air Force with a 100% disability rating.

This disability has taken everything from my dad. He has an associate's in drafting and is a certified trade drafter. He has not been able to work or maintain a job in the last 20 years since his medical discharge. Before his disability, my dad enjoyed many hobbies like many of you on this committee. Sadly, the strain of the sacrifice my dad made to our nation has prevented him from pursuing activities he previously enjoyed.

I ask the members of the Committee to imagine a scenario: where you have your dream job stolen from you, your favorite hobbies ripped away, and roaring anxiety that shakes your whole existence. -- This scenario may be unthinkable for some on the committee, but this is something that happens to far too many Veterans.

Many Veterans, like my dad, feel forgotten by our government. These distinctive plates are a great way to show respect and let our Veterans know that we haven't forgotten about them. I told my Dad about this bill and he SMILED, he was excited! He told me how cool it would be to put on his car, and told me he would want the Space Force plate because when he was in the Air Force in the 90's he was under the U.S Air Force Space Command.

I ask the Members of the Committee to vote YES on HB2015 and show our Veterans like my dad the respect they deserve. I also ask for a friendly amendment: please add the Space Force distinctive plate to this bill.

Thank you for your attention.

-Rep. Aaron Coleman, House District 37