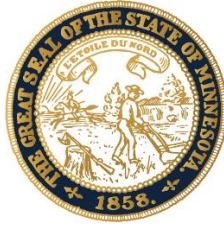


Dale K. Lueck
State Representative

District 10B
Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties



Minnesota
House of
Representatives

February 7, 2022

The Honorable Julie Rosen
Chair, Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement
2113 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Rosen and Members of the Commission,

Below are emails my office received in support of HF 2690/SF 2614, which would allow MSRS enrollees to purchase service credit for time spent in the military:

“I am writing in support of HF2690. I enlisted in the Army (active component) in 1993 and served honorably for three years until 1996 at which time I had met my initial enlistment obligations. I transferred to the Army National Guard and served from 1996 until 1999. In 1999, I transferred to the Army Reserves where I retired in 2017 after almost 25 years of service. Throughout my Army career, I was deployed to Haiti, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

When I enlisted back in 1993, there was no Thrift Savings Plan, no 401K or alike. There were no retirement benefits unless you served through to retirement. If you put in 12 years and then separated for whatever reason, you honestly had nothing to show for it when it came to planning for retirement, those were lost years. Even then, if you stuck with it until retirement, as an active component retiree, you would only receive 50% of your base salary as retirement pay. And as a retired member of the Army Reserves/Army National Guard, your retirement is based on points (days served) and you cannot draw retirement pay until you turn the age of 60.

It would be very telling of how the State of MN feels about their military veteran employees if they were to enact this. There are many veterans out there that served their country proudly and asked for nothing in return. A lot of those veterans that started into their civilian careers late in life, did so because they were serving their country. This put them behind the curve when it came to accumulating years of state service to apply towards their retirement. I know the federal government has this benefit and often wondered why the state did not.

This is my story, there are many more like it. Thank you to all that have pushed to make MN a state veterans want to call home.”

- Eric Benjamin, Veteran and DNR Conservation Officer

“I am sending this email in support of the bill. I remember as a younger man being in college law enforcement classes when I decided that my first duty was to my country. I joined the US Army. After my enlistment was up, I completed my college classes and [went into law enforcement]. Now that I am closer to the end of my career than the beginning, I see I would have been better served to have those year towards my retirement. I do not regret my decision to serve, but if the opportunity came to apply those years to my retirement, I would be grateful and surely do so. Thank you.”

- Mark Fox, Veteran and State Employee

Thank you for your consideration, and for listening to the testimony of these veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale K Lueck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dale K. Lueck
State Representative
District 10B
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Rep.Dale.Lueck@house.mn