



November 18, 2013

Co-Chair Senator Roach, Co-Chair Orwall and Honorable Committee Members
Veterans and Military Affairs, Joint Committee

Thank you so much for the Committee's willingness to learn more about the legislation I intend to file regarding Washington's State's adoption of the Honor and Remember Flag as the symbol of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. It is my hope that this Committee will ultimately decide to give its favorable recommendation.

This movement was born out of the grief of one family (the Lutz Family) whose only son died in Iraq while in service to our country. This movement grew to have support of the many families who share this painful bond. Many of you may know them as "Gold Star Families". Their desire was to create a national, "visual emblem of honor" to represent a unique and distinct category of individuals.

- **17 States have adopted** the Honor and Remember Flag
- **This flag is not a replacement for the American Flag or the POW/MIA Flag.** In fact, the Honor and Remember Flag would be flown beneath the American Flag and the POW/MIA Flag.
- **My legislation does not create a cost to the State.** Should this legislation be passed and signed by the Governor, I am prepared to donate the two Honor and Remember Flags that would be flown on the State Capitol Campus.
- **The Honor and Remember Flag can be purchased from several vendors** (including Honor and Remember, Inc.) throughout our country. This flag is made in the United States. Proceeds are used to recognize Gold Star Families, past and present.

I would like to leave each of you with two thoughts.

- **The American Flag is the symbol of freedom that our military men and women are willing to die to preserve.** It is the foundation of our Constitution, the unity of our people, the diversity of our nation, the triumph of our accomplishments, the right to protest or to be burned.
- **As a nation, we have flags that symbolize everything.** Individual states have flags, each branch of the military has its unique flag, veterans' organizations have their own flag; the POW/MIA has its flag of remembrance. Your support of the Honor and Remember Flag will fill a specific void and complete the circle of tribute for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty to our country.

State Representative 7th District