



November 6, 2019

Let's Support Our Veterans

On Monday, November 11, 2019, we honor our veterans during Veterans Day. After the attacks on 9/11/2001, wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other locations resulted in the loss of more than 7,000 U.S military lives and more than 50,000 U.S. military wounded. We honor those veterans and must always work to support them. I am proud of the men and women who sacrifice so much to keep us safe. It is our duty to take care of them once they return home to keep them safe and healthy.

This is why I have worked with local veteran organizations in Illinois to introduce legislation that was passed and signed into law as Public Act 101-0248 to raise awareness of veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Illinois. This new law creates the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Fund as a special fund in the state treasury. It allows the issuance of decals for universal special license plates by K9s for Veterans by the Illinois Secretary of State. Fees generated will help fund programs such as K9s for Veterans that assist military members and others suffering from PTSD.

Many veteran counselors have already used K9s for Veterans for veterans suffering from PTSD, with much success. Researchers estimate that 10–14 percent of service members who served in combat have developed PTSD. Michael Tellerino, CEO and Founder of K9s for Veterans said, "K9s for Veterans is proud to work with Representative La Shawn K. Ford on this issue. PTSD is a serious affliction that is highly treatable. Purchasing this new license plate decal will help raise awareness of those afflicted and help those who suffer adjust once they are back home."

Let us always remember our veterans who need our support, and let's honor them during this year's Veterans Day remembrances.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District