

SENATOR FRANK A. BARNITZ

16TH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 425

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

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Sen. Frank Barnitz Agrees with 2006 Legislative Priorities of the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) this week announced its 2006 legislative priorities, and State Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, is in full agreement with those priorities.

"I really enjoyed meeting with the veterans group," said Sen. Barnitz, who represents the 16th Senate District. "We have quite a few veterans who live in the district, so it's beneficial for me to be aware of what the MAVO priorities are for this legislative session. They have some great ideas."

The 2006 legislative priorities for MAVO are to:

- → Commit full and adequate support to continued operation of all Missouri veterans' homes.
- → Ensure that the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund is adequately supported and equally funded to maintain cemeteries' and homes' capital-improvement projects and Veterans Service organizations' grants by equally distributing funds derived from gaming fees.
- Provide state tax relief for service personnel deployed to combat zones and state tax credits on retired military pay.
- → Support the continued development and adequate funding of the Fort Leonard Wood State Veterans' Cemetery Project.
- → Provide property-tax exemption for federally chartered Veterans Service Organization property;
- → Provide assistance for small business owners who are veterans.
- Support the funding and establishment of "Veterans Resource Centers" as a one-stop assistive center for all veterans.
- Support the Missouri Vietnam Medals Program, only if previously earmarked World War II and Korean War medal funds are used, and no new funds are used that can provide services to veterans.

Veterans in the area who have any comments or concerns are invited to contact Senator Barnitz in Jefferson City by calling (573) 751-2108, e-mailing frank.barnitz@senate.mo.gov, or stopping by the office in Room 425 of the State Capitol.