



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



Room 433 — State Capitol Bldg.—Jefferson City, MO 65101—Contact: Barbara Mustoe (573) 751-2306

Week of July 3, 2006

For Freedom and for the Brave

JEFFERSON CITY — This week we honor the sacrifices of the revolutionaries who risked their lives for the freedom of their countrymen. As your state senator and as a former member of the 203rd Engineer Battalion, I ask that you take the time to reflect on those who are defending the freedom that was purchased at such great cost.

The 2006 General Assembly approved a several measures in the name of those who put their lives on the line to protect American ideals. The following are brief descriptions of the legislation:

House Bill 1787—Guard at Home Program

The “Guard at Home” program, which becomes effective July 1, 2006, is designed to financially assist families of National Guard members or reservists who have been deployed for active duty. Under the measure, returning guard members will also get help with training and employment as they re-enter the workforce.

SJR 28—Tax Exemptions

Property of veteran-service organizations, such as the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars, have generally been considered tax exempt because they are devoted to charitable work. However, some county assessors have started taxing the property because the Missouri Constitution does not expressly exempt them from property taxes. This measure proposes a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, would make the property of veterans organizations exempt from taxation.

HB 984—POW/MIA Flag

An important aspect of our patriotic holidays that often goes overlooked is that many of our soldiers are unaccounted for—they are either prisoners of war or missing in action. This measure encourages all government buildings, businesses and Missouri residents to display the POW/MIA flag on Memorial Day, July 4th, September 11th and Veterans Day.

SB 701—National Guard Tuition Assistance

In exchange for service to the National Guard, Missouri helps members pay for their higher education. The original law required members to remain in the National Guard for three years from the last semester that they received tuition assistance. However, when Guard members were deployed, they were unable to enroll in classes and utilize tuition assistance, and the three-year window closed before they can fully use the tuition aid. This legislation removes the three-year provision and simply requires a Guard member to be in active-drilling status while they are utilizing tuition assistance.

*Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.*