



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 9, 2009

Sen. David Pearce Receives VFW Legislator of the Year Award

JEFFERSON CITY— Senator David Pearce (R-Warrensburg), who played a key role this year in advancing legislation addressing veterans' and military issues, was recently honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Department of Missouri as 2008–2009 Legislator of the Year. Senator Pearce received the award during the Joint Opening Session of the department's Annual VFW Convention on Friday, June 19, from Commander Thomas Hartman.

The organization selected Sen. Pearce for his leadership role in advancing veterans' issues in the Legislature. As the Senate handler of a pair of military-related bills, Sen. Pearce worked to exempt military pensions from state income tax upon retirement ([HB 82](#)) and make changes to the law that will benefit military members, veterans and their families ([HB 427](#)). House Bill 82 was signed by the governor last week (7/2) in Cape Girardeau and will become law Aug. 28.

"I am deeply honored and extremely appreciative to be recognized by the VFW for my legislative efforts this year," Sen. Pearce said. "Working on behalf of Missouri's veterans is just one small way to attempt to thank them for the freedom allowed to us because of their selfless sacrifices."

Representative Will Kraus (R-48) was also chosen as the VFW's Legislator of the Year for the House of Representatives for his efforts in sponsoring HB 82.

Senator Pearce represents the 31st Senatorial District in the Missouri Senate, which consists of Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties.

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Senator David Pearce received the VFW Legislator of the Year Award on Friday, June 19. Pictured from left to right are Karen Harding, Ladies Auxiliary VFW Missouri legislative chair; Commander Tom Hartman, VFW Missouri; Debbie Griffin, president of Ladies Auxiliary VFW Missouri; Senator Pearce; and Dewey Riehn, VFW Missouri legislative chair.

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