

one of these bills and I want it to be clear on each one of these bills that I opposed it very strenuously and I think this is...it defies description by me what is being done here today. I think people signed on this bill because they just couldn't say no and now that the floodgates are open, don't be surprised when other requests come in. I might even make some requests and we may as well. This is nonsensical. This is not giving an honor to somebody who got wounded, and, remember, these people didn't get wounded on purpose; they were doing everything they could to avoid it. Some of them were accidentally wounded. Some of them were wounded while fleeing so there is no need in us all of a sudden getting misty-eyed and creating some kind of mythical set of circumstances that justifies the license plates of this state being cluttered with all of this mishmash of one thing and another and that is exactly what it is. If a person has one of these medals, let him wear it wherever he goes. Let him put a sign on his chest if he wants to, freedom of speech, but to ask the state to be complicit in this kind of activity is a mistake. I think it is a violation of the duty that we have to show good judgment. We are not always should be moved by public opinion. At some point we're to serve an educational function and raise the level of understanding of the public as to what it is that a state is to do, what the Legislature as the policy-making, lawmaking body is supposed to do. Our example should be one of public courage. I don't think it would take courage, at least it doesn't for me, to speak against and vote against bills like this, but it might take that for others because they can't look somebody in the face and they will say, you voted against the veterans. You're not voting against veterans. You're voting against the misuse of an object that exists for a specific purpose, and I hope none of the senators will come up to me after this one and say, Ernie, you sure were right and I should have voted against it but I couldn't. I get tired of hearing that. If others have the feelings that I have, vote that way. This is a mistake. The other one was a mistake and the way to correct it is not to compound it by doing it over and over and over. How about a farmer wanting to put a tractor on the license plate saying, I survived the drought of 1988, how about that? And the only farmers who can get it are those who indeed rode the tractors themselves and he would have a picture of a little tractor up there, and then maybe a shock of corn on the other side to balance it, because this is an agricultural state and I think that would be quaint. I know what I'm going to do.