

additional plates that can be attached that may indicate a variety of things that the state wants to honor, which is appropriate, that the state wishes to honor the owner of that vehicle for some past service. But it seems to me that that can be done on a separate plate that would be authorized and attached on those vehicles where it was appropriate rather than using the method of numerically identifying the owner of a vehicle through a number and a registration. And that would be a more appropriate way to address these issues rather than a variety of official plates so issued.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Warner. Further discussion, Senator Landis is recognized.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little while ago Ernie said, listen, if you agree with me, then this is your time to vote with me. I wound up voting with Ernie but I don't agree with his reasons so I'm standing up and trying to explain my own reason which is different. If the rhetoric wasn't as wild, I think I would have just sat down here and cast my vote but I, too, want to explain it. The purpose of these plates are, I think, to honor a certain kind of sacrifice, fair characterization? Purple Hearts, DAV, veterans generally trying to recognize the sacrifice that an individual has paid on behalf of society in war time. And they've trickled in and I've had this little frown on my brow but I haven't said anything about it, and now that the gates are kind of opening up and some more coming in, I guess it's a little untimely now to make the argument, but the difficulty I've got is not whether a plate should or should not be used to do this, it's what role we have as a society to play in the recognition of sacrifice. I think there is two aspects to it. One is a public aspect in which we remember the significance of war and the sacrifice of war and one is a private recognition of the pain that that has caused. In one sense we've tried to compensate for personal pain by such things as VA hospitals and educational loans. I think that is reasonable. We wouldn't, I think, force somebody to put a decal on their window saying, I used the G.I. Bill, I've used a VA hospital. We wouldn't push somebody into recognizing themselves in that form. It has been a private and a confidential exchange but one that we've meant to reach out and recognize that sacrifice. On the public side, I think the way that we should do this, rather than plates, are ceremonies that we all share in and ceremonies that don't distinguish between the people who have sacrificed because that is what we are doing here. We're