

ago...it escapes me right now, as a result of that injury. While he was alive, they were given the homestead exemption. After he died, his widow, under the interpretation of current statutes was also given the homestead exemption until last year. Now we researched the floor debate at the time this was put in a number of years back, really couldn't find a clear intent on the part of the Legislature. We asked the Attorney General for another opinion. They cited the previously existing opinion and included in that the use of the Department of Revenue regulations as to the meaning of the word "veteran". This happened last July or August, about the same time the Persian Gulf incident took place and we lost several of our servicemen in that. More recently, we saw on the battleship Iowa the 47 seven who died. This week a young man from Nebraska, happened to be unmarried, but a young man from Nebraska was killed in defense of his country. It is my opinion and I think the opinion of any thinking person that those who are currently serving on active duty certainly are putting their lives and future at risk in defense of liberty in a way that is not unlike those who served during the periods of...that are defined as wartime. So what this bill then would do would be provide...or this amendment would provide that two additional classifications for qualification for the home...for the veterans homestead exemption, that the unremarried widow or widower of any veteran, including those not listed in Section 84-0101, which are the wartime dates, who died because of a service connected disability or...or and the unremarried widow or widower of a serviceman or a servicewoman, including those not listed in Section 84-0101, whose death while on active duty was service connected. The Department of Revenue estimates that this may encompass 10 to 15 people in the State of Nebraska, that the cost is estimated to be 10 to \$11,000 in additional homestead exemption monies. But I think it's only fair that those who die on active duty or die as a result of active duty...this does not include National Guard nor reserve service, are entitled to part of what is given to the veterans who serve during the periods of active duty. It's not an expensive bill. It's a just bill. It was supported by the Disabled American Veterans at the hearing, by the American Legion at the hearing. It in no way impacts any benefits that current veterans have under our homestead exemption bill. So, with that, I would move that this amendment be adopted to LB 762.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please.