

Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Conway, just a couple of questions if I may. In lines 7 through 10 of the bill I notice there is new language. It's new language that says that the Adjutant General shall conduct military ceremonies and honors in accordance with the laws, regulations or customs of the appropriate branch of the service. I was wondering what has come before as compared to what this law would do? Does the Adjutant General not conduct these ceremonies currently, under current law?

SENATOR CONWAY: Senator Beutler, it's my understanding that occasionally or probably in almost every case, if there were a Nebraska National Guard member who were to be killed in action while in active duty, the Nebraska Adjutant General probably would perform these services. There is nothing that one that authorizes him to do it, and there is no authorization to provide a flag as they do under the normal military procedures, so they came to me asking for this opportunity.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mmmhmm. But is that first sentence of Section 2 intended to do anything more than to assist in providing the flag? I mean it seems to be an independent sentence which has to do generally with the conducting of ceremonies and I have no objection to their conducting the ceremonies but I was wondering what the change was from current law. I assume that they had been conducting those ceremonies.

SENATOR CONWAY: I believe there is absolute absence of language in this regard in current law.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And for regular army members or regular service members, does the Adjutant General conduct their ceremonies?

SENATOR CONWAY: No, under regular service the federal entities, whoever they may be, Army, Navy, Marine, whoever, has a corps, a group that specializes in simply doing this and they come in from the national level.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so the intent of the first sentence in Section 2 is simply for the conducting of ceremonies relating to the Nebraska National Guard. Is that right?

SENATOR CONWAY: Correct.