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April 30, 2003 LB 799

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President and members, as Senator Wehrbein just mentioned, the amendment is simply adding the E clause to the bill and I would urge its adoption.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments. Any discussion? Seeing none, Senator Schimek waives closing. The question then is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 799. All in favor vote aye, and opposed nay. Have you all voted that wish to vote? Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BROMM: The committee amendments are adopted. Are there any further amendments on the bill, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: The Chair would recognize Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to take an opportunity to make some comments. Senator Doctor Johnson and I both served in the Vietnam War, both of us served in the medical corps; he on a ship treating wounded soldiers who were brought onto the ship for treatment, I in a MASH unit in Lai Kay, Vietnam, in the 1st Infantry Division. It was an unpopular war. It was a war that we lost and people don't really like losers. And, unfortunately, there was a lot of stigma to those of us who served, and there was not a differentiation between the war and the warrior. And, unfortunately, a lot of that hurt is still going on in the hearts and the heads and in the lives of the veterans from that era. Anything that can be done to help to heal those wounds I think needs to be done. We have a lot of Vietnam veterans that are homeless, that are on the streets, that need some assistance. We have Vietnam veterans who are chemically dependent. We have Vietnam veterans who have post traumatic stress syndrome, and other ailments that are not being treated, partially because they are not diagnosed and there isn't the help or the support for those people, and some