

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 6, 2004 LB 1231A

anything bad enough to be discharged dishonorably. These people have needs. The assistance that would be available they cannot get. Others have said that based on the Attorney General's ruling, when it comes to homestead exemption, they may not be able to take advantage of that program. Yet the federal government would not disqualify people with general discharges in the way that the state of Nebraska, pursuant to something the Attorney General said, has done. I'm not going to prolong the discussion, but I had to say that. And I want to remind you all that you may have a lot of these people coming back from the Middle East, especially since more than 600 of them have died for nothing. They were sent over there, some of them having mental health problems, without adequate counseling, without adequate counselors. Some need psychoactive medication, which they were not given, and it's not available there now. But they're so far away, nobody seems to care. There are families purchasing the body armor which they ought to have but don't have. So we need to realize that it's one thing to raise...wave the flag and talk about patriotism, and united we stand, and the rest of it. But what I want to do is put a human face on these people who are actually under those circumstances which not only can destroy your body, but can destroy your mind, can do things to you that will cause you to be mustered out of the military with something less than an honorable discharge, but you have not done anything bad enough to get a bad conduct discharge, so you're going to be...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...treated as though you...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...did something wrong. I think that is wrong. I think it is unconscionable. Mr. President, that's all I will say. And thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you. Mr. President and members of