

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

February 3, 2005 LB 54

Thank you, Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you.

SENATOR PREISTER: That's all I would ask you. I rise in support of Senator Schimek's amendment. I can go either way with that one. I guess I can go either way with Senator Cunningham's amendment too. I'm not trying to create more conflict here when we already had a lot of anguish by a number of veterans. I know and speak somewhat for veterans. Being one myself and having an honorable discharge myself, I support what Senator Schimek and the committee are attempting to do. In my mind, I make a distinction between the warrior and the war, and some of us served in wars because we thought at the time it was the right thing to do. Some of us then learned that maybe our leaders put us in harm's way when it wasn't the right thing to do. I had a very difficult opinion after having been in Vietnam than I did before I went, and I volunteered to go there. The same, I think, is true with the current war. I did oppose that. I did speak publicly against going in and, yet, I say that's not the reason that I'm standing today. I'm standing now because I think we've had a long-standing policy of providing some assistance through a Veterans' Aid Fund that has helped a lot of veterans and their families, and it has helped those who have served and gotten an honorable discharge, and it has helped those who have gotten a general discharge under honorable conditions. And I think it's important for people to know, these aren't people who received a dishonorable discharge, they are not people who have gotten a bad conduct discharge, and it does not include anyone who has received a general discharge under other than honorable conditions. These people have all served honorably. They may have been discharged because of medical reasons. They may have been discharged because of an unplanned pregnancy. And I may make the distinction, that doesn't just mean women either. It can also mean the man whose wife got pregnant but, because of a number of circumstances that complicated that, they needed to get...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...a discharge. That discharge is a general