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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of the amendment, as well as the underlying legislation. I think as the amendment is right now is probably a good thing. It actually allows Sarpy County to make the decision to go either direction they want to, and I don't think that's such a bad deal. If the federal designation doesn't work out, then everything is already in place for them to go with the state designation. I think that's a good deal. I'd also like to thank Senator Loudon for his persistence on this issue. He's been at it for three years now, and done a great job. And also, kudos to his community for stepping up and taking a leadership role in raising the funds for this. Again, I do support the amendment, as well as the underlying bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Senator Preister, followed by Senator Loudon.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. Once again, Senator Chambers speaks words that ring very true for me when he says that we should do more for the living veterans than for those that we can't really do anything for. I think one of the best things we can do for all of those veterans that serve in war is not to get them into the war in the first place, and to create better diplomatic policy that we don't have to put them in those situations and then we have to put them into the ground. But I won't get into that. That's another situation. I rose partly because of Senator Schimek's comments, and to add a little information, to also support the bill, and to support the amendment. Senator Schimek identifies correctly the process and some of the history on the current legislation. She also identifies that Sarpy County is seeking a federal designation for their cemetery. However, to meet the designation requirements, you have to have a certain population base of veterans living in the area. Sarpy County doesn't get close to that threshold amount. Even though we have Offutt and we have a lot of retired military in the area, we're still well below the number of veterans that are required for the federal designation. So we're probably not, although former Senator Hartnett is working on that with other people, although we're looking at an appeal to try and get around that requirement, I'm