

From: Dwight Mears <dmears@pdx.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 3:24 PM
To: Jacob Carlson <Jacob.Carlson@sdlegislature.gov>
Subject: [EXT]: Fw: Feedback on Senate Resolution 701

Dear Jacob,

I saw that SR701 has a hearing scheduled for tomorrow, and so am sending a short addendum to my earlier points that I already sent to Sen. Bordeaux. I audited the Wounded Knee Massacre Medal of Honor recipients and can say with confidence that none of them were likely on the MoH Roll, which is the target of this bill as well as the Remove the Stain Act. The Roll as enacted in 1916 required pensioners to be at least 65, not be separated due to retirement, and separated honorably (see the statute, attached). Not a single Wounded Knee medal recipient appears to have met those criteria. 10 of the 19 recipients apparently did not live to the age of 65, 8 were military retirees, and 2 were discharged dishonorably. This finding strongly reinforces my suggestion to remove the reference to the MoH Roll from SR701, since a directive to remove Wounded Knee recipients would apparently leave the Roll unchanged.

Sincerely,
Dr. Dwight Mears