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## Legislature Seeks to Honor Nation's Heroes

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As a retired non-commissioned officer in the United State's Air Force and a current member of the Government, Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee, Senator Scott Price is keenly aware of the sacrifices made by all military families, but especially those whose loved ones fall in the line of duty. In order to recognize those who give every last measure of devotion and to further comfort those they leave behind, Sen. Price introduced a resolution calling on the unicameral to urge Congress to pass H.R. 546.

The passage of H.R. 546 would create an official pennant for fallen soldiers called the Honor and Remember Flag—a token that families could cherish and display proudly to clearly announce to all the dedication of their lost kin. The resolution enjoyed bi-partisan support in the unicameral, a pleasant reminder during a heated legislative session of the common bonds among all Americans. A literal "rally around the flag" that repeated itself in state legislatures all around the country.

However, Sen. Price is the first to note that the resolution's true inspiration came from two noble souls, Russell Kirkpatrick and Kristine Negley, recognizing their "incredible impact on families and communities statewide and nationally."<sup>[1]</sup> These two Bellevue University students turned a simple class project into a statewide movement to honor the nation's fallen heroes by promoting the national organization Honor and Remember, Inc. here in Nebraska.<sup>[2]</sup> Honor and Remember, Inc. endeavors "to create, establish and promote a nationally recognized flag that would fly continuously as a visible reminder to all Americans of the lives lost in defense of our national freedoms."

As a nation, we often memorialize the steadfastness of those who forfeit their lives for the cause of freedom through magnificent monuments, solemn ceremonies, and heartfelt words. However, our meager signs of appreciation too often feel inadequate in relation to the magnitude of the ultimate sacrifice. The establishment of the Honor and Remember Flag will by no means fully bridge that disparity, but it may provide an ounce of solace for those whose hearts continue to mourn.

The Platte Institute extends its deepest thanks to all of our nation's veterans and active duty personal, wishing everyone an enjoyable and safe Fourth of July!

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[1] <http://news.legislature.ne.gov/dist03/>

[2] <http://www.bellevue.edu/news/stories/05192011-students-turn-learning-into-legislation.aspx>



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