

THE HONORABLE STEVE KING

STATEMENT ON MARKUP OF H.R. 1119

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

8/01/07

Thank you, Mr. Smith. I would like to indicate my strong support for this bill. The Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America was founded in 1932. It was recognized by the Veteran's Administration and represented "veterans in the presentation of claims before the . . . Administration and its service officers are active in veteran's hospitals." This remains the case. The organization was federally chartered in 1958.

Active members of the organization must be persons of good moral character who have received the Purple Heart for wounds received as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or those of any other country during military combat against an armed enemy of the U.S.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is a sterling organization that provides services to those brave Americans who were wounded defending our country. The Order also seeks to promote “patriotic allegiance to the United States, fidelity to the Constitution and laws of the United States, the security of civil liberty, and the permanence of free institutions.” Its goals are “educational, fraternal, historical, and patriotic, perpetuating the principles of liberty and justice which have created the United States.”

Parents or lineal descendants of persons eligible to be active members can be associate members of the Order. The Order has requested that its charter be amended so that siblings and spouses of members can also become associate members. I am more than happy to do so.

H.R. 1119, the “Purple Heart Family Equity Act of 2007”, as amended by the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law, would provide that spouses and siblings of persons eligible to be active members of the Order can become associate members. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.