



DAVID STEFFEN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2015

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Rep. Steffen's Stolen Valor Bill Moves Forward

Legislation Seeking to Protect Veteran's Rights Receives Public Hearing

Madison- State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) recently introduced Wisconsin's Stolen Valor bill ([Assembly Bill 114](#)), legislation aimed at making it illegal to lie about one's military service or awards in order to gain benefits. The bill continues to move forward and will receive a public hearing in the Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Government Operations today.

This bipartisan bill mirrors existing federal law in creating a penalty for those guilty of falsifying military experience, more commonly known as Stolen Valor. Today, military medals, ribbons, and forms are all readily available online. In just the few clicks of a mouse, perpetrators can purchase the tools necessary to bolster their phony military record.

"This public hearing moves us one step closer to bridging the gap between federal and state law, allowing Wisconsin to prosecute Stolen Valor criminals. Anyone who lies about their military service in order to defraud others should be prosecuted; this bill will make it easier to do so," Rep. Steffen commented.

A constituent and former US Marine, Gerald Mullen, played an integral role in bringing this issue to the attention of the Legislature. His military and professional experience made him indispensable in understanding the scope of Stolen Valor in Wisconsin and the need for state authority over this crime.

"Far from being a victimless crime, Stolen Valor exploits businesses, non-profits, and individuals, and shows total disrespect for the men and women who know the true cost of serving our country," Rep. Steffen said.

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