



ROGER ROTH

STATE SENATOR • 19TH SENATE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2015

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Senator Roth authors Stolen Valor legislation

Senate bill will compliment federal law by providing recourse at the state level

MADISON – Today, State Senator Roger Roth (R—Appleton) introduced Wisconsin’s response to the ever growing and concerning trend of military impersonation for personal gain. This legislation aims to protect the sacrifices of America’s veterans and the integrity of the uniform they wear and the decorations they’ve earned.

As more and more veterans return from service, there has sadly been a coinciding increase in the amount of imposters looking to take advantage of the goodwill of our citizens. Fake military documents, uniforms, insignia and medals are easily purchased by imposters.

“I’ve served overseas,” said Senator Roth. “To think that there are people profiting on the sacrifices of others offends me. This bill helps protect the integrity of the men and women who serve our country.”

According to federal data, the Department of Veterans Affairs provided more than \$59 billion in compensation benefits and over \$5 billion in pension payments to 4.5 million veterans and survivors nationwide. The nation’s support of veterans makes it an ideal target for fraud.

“Passing our own Stolen Valor legislation will allow these cases of fraud to be pursued at the local and state level, without the need for involvement of a federal prosecutor,” Roth said. “The more avenues we can offer to stem this problem, the better.”

The bill was drafted in consultation with a 2012 Supreme Court decision that struck down the federal Stolen Valor Act of 2005. Wisconsin’s version indicates that any person who falsely, and with intent to obtain a tangible financial or other tangible benefit, claims he or she is serving or has served in the military, or that he or she has received an honor or award related to military service, is guilty of a crime.

Senator Roger Roth is a veteran of the Iraq War, having been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He represents the heart of the Fox Valley including Appleton, Neenah and Menasha.

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