



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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To Respect the Sacrifices of Fallen Soldiers, We Must Honor Those Still With Us
By Rep. Gary Hebl

On Memorial Day, we remember and honor those we have lost fighting for our country. We gather with those close to us to celebrate family and friends who died while serving the United States and defending the freedom we hold so dear.

One of the best ways to honor our country's fallen soldiers is by honoring the lives of their brothers and sisters in arms who return home and face the challenges of transitioning to civilian life.

We in the Legislature should make it a priority to assist returning veterans when they come home, whether that is helping them search for jobs, find housing, receive adequate health care, or pass other legislation aimed at aiding them.

I have once again introduced a bill that will help state-employed veterans of more recent conflicts receive credit for their service through the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). Currently, state-employed members of the armed services receive retirement benefit credit for their military service- but only if that military service occurred in engagements prior to 1974.

My bill, [Assembly Bill 62](#), will expand the existing law to include veterans who served in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other more recent military conflicts. The pre-1974 requirement was written into law three and a half decades ago. In order to create a fair and equitable system and to show proper appreciation to veterans who have served since 1974, it is clear that we need to update this statute.

This is just one of the many ways we can honor the men and women that put themselves in harm's way for us. I will continue to work with constituents, veterans, and my legislative colleagues to ensure our men and women returning from combat receive the best support the state of Wisconsin can give them.

Rep. Gary Hebl represents the 46th Assembly District, which includes the Cities of Sun Prairie and Stoughton, the Village of Cottage Grove, and the Townships of Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Pleasant Springs, and Sun Prairie.

Contact Rep. Hebl with any questions or concerns you may have at (608) 266-7678 or via email at Rep.Hebl@legis.wi.gov.

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