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TESTIMONY ON RHB 5263

Good morning. I am here to ask for your support for a bill recently raised in you committee. It is titled; AAC Promotions For Retired Veteran, number RHB 5263

Under prior law, an officer or warrant officer of the Connecticut National Guard who served 10 years as an officer or enlisted person, including at least three years as a commissioned officer or warrant officer, could apply and be placed on the retired list in the highest grade in which he or she served. An officer or warrant officer who served 20 or more years could apply and be commissioned and placed on the list at the next highest grade at which he or she was ever commissioned, but no higher than a general **While a member of the Legislature from 1977 to 1983 and simultaneously a senior enlisted member of the CT Army National Guard, I felt this to be discriminatory. I tried to enact similar legislation for Enlisted grades, but ran into opposition from Senior Officer members of the Guard.**

PA 09-4 allowed (1) all members who serve 10 years to apply to be placed on the list in the highest grade in which they served and (2) **all members who serve 20 or more years to apply to be placed on the list at one grade above the highest grade they ever held, but not above brigadier general or sergeant major.**

PA 09-4 also allowed each member only one retirement promotion, and it requires that applications be timely and submitted to the adjutant general through the chain of command **before the member retires.** **Under prior law, an officer could apply (1) while in service, through proper officers, or (2) after leaving service, directly to the adjutant general.**

I propose a revision to Section 27-50 of the CT General Statutes that would allow all retired member of the Armed Forces of the state who **served honorably for 30 or more years** (which I did) to apply directly to the Adjutant General to be placed on the list at one grade above the highest grade they ever held, but not above sergeant major.

It would just be an honorary title but would mean so much to retired enlisted CT Guardsmen, including myself, who served our State and Country for so many years. Thank you for your time and I would be glad to answer any questions.

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