

Good Morning, My name is A. "Rusty" Meek, and I am Past State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Connecticut. I would like to testify on the following bills before this committee.

SB 215: I highly support this bill. We have had some people get into the system who are ineligible. The term "Veteran" should be more specific to include "Active Duty", "National Guard", etc. ROTC at colleges, universities or academies should not count towards getting a tuition waiver in the State of Connecticut, unless they have served on active duty.

HB 5267: Again, I highly agree with this bill. This building has a lot of history, not only in the community but the state. I have some fine memories of the circus being held here. They had a few "Home Shows" here too. Just walk through the building and look at all the picture telling her story and the story of the history of the Connecticut National Guard and some history of the State of Connecticut. But most of all recently, we honored our today's veterans when they departed to go into harm way.

SB 209: This is a very good bill except, after "Surviving spouses of members of the armed forces who died on active duty" should have something like "until she remarries". If she remarries a veterans, he will pick up the tax break. If she remarries a civilian, with no military background , they are not entitles to the exemption, even if the house is in her name.

I would like to thank the committee and if there are any questions, I would be glad to answer them.