

Exhibit No. 1Date 3-21-2011HB 255

I have been working with Vietnam Veterans (thru the Associates of the Vietnam Veterans of America, AVVA) for about 15 years. This group of veterans has done so much to help their fellow veterans, of all wars/conflicts, and their families. Their assistance may be as simple as sharing their knowledge of how the VA system works, to supplying food, shelter, jobs, money for utilities, rent, save a house from foreclosure, clothing, gas cards, holding a hand thru a crisis, to saying goodbye to a friend finally succumbing to their illness caused by agent orange. So many of their lives are being lived giving even more to this country, they are truly living up to their motto "In service to America".

If a soldier just back from Iraq can say to a Vietnam Vet (as I witnessed), "Thanks for paying the price of waking up the government so we receive help immediately upon our return from combat. May I shake your hand"? Isn't it time that the state of Montana joins many other states in saying "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans".

Sandy Welsand
Montana AVVA State Representative