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Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 3:38 PM

To: Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>

Cc: Kenneth Goslant <KGoslant@leg.state.vt.us>; robert.burke@vermont.gov; Deborah Krause <daskrause@gmail.com>; William E. Passalacqua <wpass@norwich.edu>; Michael Krause <mdetlefk@aol.com>

Subject: [External] STATE TAX EXEMPTION - MILITARY RETIREES AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

[External]

Dear Ms. Faith Brown:

I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts on military retirement income being excluded from Vermont income taxation.

Let me provide a quick profile.

While a cadet at Norwich University, I joined the Vermont National Guard. I did so to increase my seniority in service upon commissioning in 1964. I served in the regular Army for 28 years, plus two in the VT NG. I retired in 1992.

Our Northfield home is still my legal residence since 1968. I went to war in Vietnam from Northfield VT in the winter of 1968/69. During our Army career, we moved 23 times. I served in Desert Storm/Shield as well as contingency operations. I retired in 1992. We established several companies all based in Vermont adding taxable income to for the state. I've paid Vermont State income taxes on my retirement income.

Many of my military colleagues serving at Norwich University love Vermont - as we do - but are hesitant to stay because of the VT tax on military retirement income. They leave Vermont for other states that have no tax on military retirement income, example, Florida, Texas, Tennessee.

After many years of military service, while maintaining our Northfield home, we are now seriously planning to change our residence to those exempting states. This will save us approximately \$6,000 per year in payment of VT State income tax.

I've been a long term advocate of continuing to serve in a number of Vermont outreach capacities. I served for five years on the The Veterans' Place, Board of Directors as President. We organized the 100 year commemoration of the end of WWI, among other events.

As I look at serving members in the VT NG today, they would be incentivized to stay in the VTNG with the prospect of state exemption of military retirement taxation.

I fervently recommend that the entire amount of retirement pay be exempted - including survivors' benefits.

Your decision will certainly affect our Family.

Essayons!

Michael

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