

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 6, 1997 LB 755

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Peterson, Senator Chris Peterson, to open on your bill.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of the body. LB 755 was advanced unanimously from committee. And as amended, LB 755 will appropriate \$30,000 to the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide funding to the Women in Military Services For America Memorial Foundation. I believe that this is the first and only memorial dedicated to women veterans. Based on the 1990 census, some 1.2 million women are veterans, and women have served in all of America's major conflicts beginning with the American Revolution. The names of the states which have donated will be displayed prominently on the wall of the Memorial Education Center. And with the dedication of the memorial set for October 18, 1997, the inclusion of Nebraska, on the Honor Roll of States, will be a tribute to Nebraska's approximately 7,500 women veterans. The memorial will prove to the world that when their country called, the Nebraska women answered, as did all of them. The bill, as currently drafted, meets the statutory definition of an appropriation and therefore does not need a separate bill. And to date 19 other states have donated to the memorial. And I hope that you will join these 19 other states and advance LB 755. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator...Senator Robinson, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the committee (sic), committee amended LB 755 to change the appropriation for the state donation for the Women's Military Service American Memorial from 25,000 to 30,000. The committee looked at what other states' contributions have been, and it appears that 30,000 is somewhat in the middle. The testimony at the hearing was compelling in favor of this appropriation. We felt that \$30,000 was a small price to help with this memorial. I would urge the adoption of the committee amendment. I'd just like to make a...we had three bills in the committee, and we had one of our Dessert Storm veterans, a young man from south Omaha, Senator Jon Hilgert, had a bill in there that was a very good bill. And Senator Curt Bromm had one in there along with Senator Peterson. And we had some great testimony from women that had served in the services of the United States. I didn't