

VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS DIVISION

Representative Jay Xiong, Co-Chair of the Veterans and Military Affairs Division, called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM on Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025, in Room G23 of the Capitol Building.

The Committee Legislative Assistant noted the roll.

Members Present:

XIONG, Jay (Co-Chair)
HEMMINGSEN-JAEGER, Amanda (Vice Co-Chair)
BLISS, Matt (Co-Chair)
BJORN, Olson (Vice Co-Chair)
BENNETT, Peggy
CLARDY, Mary Frances
DAVIS, Ben
DURAN, Bidal
FEIST, Sandra
HILL, Josiah
REHRAUER, Kari
REPINSKI, Aaron

A quorum was present.

Chair Bliss moved that the minutes of March 26, 2025, be adopted. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

HF 3005 (Gottfried); Metro Meals on Wheels funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated.

Chair Xiong moved that HF 3005 be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division's omnibus bill.

Representative Gottfried presented HF 3005.

Testifying:

- Patrick Rowan, Executive Director, Metro Meals on Wheels
- Carter Drake, Recipient and Veteran, Metro Meals on Wheels

Chair Xiong renewed the motion that HF 3005 be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill. The bill was laid over.

HF 2773 (Clardy); Lutheran Social Services CORE program funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated.

Representative Clardy moved to adopt the HF 2773 A1 Amendment. THE MOTION PREVAILED. THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Chair Xiong moved that HF 2773 as amended be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division's omnibus bill.

Representative Clardy presented HF 2773 as amended.

Testifying:

- Amy Vajert, Senior Director, Lutheran Social Services Meals

Chair Xiong renewed the motion that HF 2773 as amended be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill. The bill was laid over.

HF 982 (Clardy); Education benefit established for dependents of disabled veterans.

Representative Clardy moved to adopt the HF 982 DE2 Amendment. THE MOTION PREVAILED. THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Chair Xiong moved that HF 982 as amended be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill.

Representative Clardy presented HF 982 as amended.

Testifying:

- Alen Garske, Disabled Veteran

Chair Xiong renewed the motion that HF 982 as amended be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill. The bill was laid over.

HF 1845 (Cha); Veterans definition expanded to include units operating from Laos and or naturalized under the federal Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act.

Representative Cha moved to adopt the HF 1845 A4 Amendment. **THE MOTION PREVAILED. THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Chair Xiong moved that HF 1845 as amended be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill.

Representative Cha presented HF 1845 as amended.

Testifying:

- Dr. Lee Pao Xiong, Director, Center of Hmong Studies, Concordia University
- Ya Lee, Former Pilot, Special Guerilla Units (SGU)
- Pa Xang Vang, Executive Director and Former Recruit Foot Soldier, SGU Veteran and Family of United States of America Organization
- Yee Hang, Retired Colonel and Chair, Minnesota Asian American Pacifici Islander Veterans Association
- Jean Lee, President and Executive Director, Children's Hope International

Chair Xiong renewed the motion that HF 1845 as amended be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill. The bill was laid over.

HF 1511 (Clardy); Commissioner of veterans affairs funding provided for a veteran mentorship program for Black youth, and money appropriated.

Representative Clardy moved that HF 1511 be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill.

Representative Clardy presented HF 1511.

Testifying:

- Stephen Kent, Retired Colonel and Founder and Executive Director, Be The Best Foundation

Representative Clardy renewed the motion that HF 1511 be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill. The bill was laid over.

HF1514 (Clardy); Veterans resilience project funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated.

Representative Clardy moved that HF 1514 be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill.

Representative Clardy presented HF 1514.

Testifying:

- Julius Cochran, Chair, Minnesota Black Farmers Association
- Jonna Phillips, Executive Director, Veterans Resilience Project
- John Thompson, Licensed Therapist, Veterans Resilience Project

Representative Clardy renewed the motion that HF 1514 be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill. The bill was laid over.

HF1516 (Clardy); Commissioner of veterans affairs funding provided for a grant to an organization to establish a Black veterans support program, and money appropriated.

Representative Clardy moved that HF 1516 be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill.


Representative Clardy presented HF 1516.

Testifying:

- Sean Payton, Former Officer of the United States Air Force, Doctor and Instructor, North Hennepin Community College
- Stephen Kent, Retired Colonel and Founder and Executive Director, Be The Best Foundation

Representative Clardy renewed the motion that HF 1516 be laid over for possible inclusion in the Veterans and Military Affairs Division omnibus bill. The bill was laid over.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 AM.


Representative Jay Xiong, Co-Chair


Bonny Vue, Committee Legislative Assistant