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ODVA TO SPEARHEAD ELIMINATION OF STATE INCOME TAX ON MILITARY RETIREMENTS

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) is excited to announce its support of Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 32. SJR 32 proposes to amend the Oklahoma Constitution to eliminate the state income tax on military retirements.

“Due to high capabilities developed during a military career, military retirees frequently have high-paying, post-military careers and veterans in general, tend to be highly entrepreneurial,” said Joel Kintsel, ODVA Executive Director. “If this can happen in Oklahoma instead of some other state, economic activity will increase in local communities, counties and school districts and ultimately benefit the entire state.”

Following transition to civilian life, military retirees typically start a second career which will remain subject to the state income tax under SJR 32. Military retirees are strong citizens and will continue to serve and give back to their local communities because they bring American values and a love of country to the places where they live and work. The goal of SJR 32 is to make Oklahoma the best place in the country to live and retire after serving in the United States military.

“This is the top priority for the veteran community this legislative session and 2022 is the year to get it done,” said Sen. Brenda Stanley, R-Midwest City, the principal Senate author of SJR 32. “If military retirees don’t stay here or never come here in the first place, Oklahoma loses out on good people and new opportunities for economic growth.”

“The goal of SJR 32 is to make Oklahoma the best place in the country to live and retire after serving in the United States military,” said Rep. Kyle Hilbert, the House author of SJR 32. “We love veterans in Oklahoma and SJR 32 is a great way to attract more veterans to the state.”

Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana have already exempted military retirements from state income taxes and Texas does not have a state income tax. If passed by the Legislature and approved by the voters, SJR 32 will make Oklahoma competitive with neighboring states.

If approved by the voters, SJR 32 would go into effect for tax year 2022 and will be presented in the upcoming legislative session, which begins Feb. 7 at noon.

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About ODVA

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs provides resources and services to military veterans residing in the state of Oklahoma including assistance with state and federal veterans’ benefits, disability claims, burial and survivor benefits, healthcare, employment, education, suicide prevention, entrepreneurship and veteran-owned businesses, women veteran services and veterans in agriculture. ODVA also operates seven long-term care facilities throughout Oklahoma. To learn more, visit www.oklahoma.gov/veterans