

Dept. of Defense Recognizes Sloan for Legislative Leadership

Robert L. Gordon, III, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Military Community and Family Policy) awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Representative Tom Sloan (R, Lawrence). The Certificate reads, in part: "The United States Department of Defense presents this certificate of grateful appreciation to Representative Tom Sloan for his leadership on public policy changes positively impacting the quality of life of Service members and their families residing in Kansas during the 2011 Legislative Session."

The Certificate was awarded for Sloan's sponsorship of HB 2040 that addressed the disposition of a service member's remains by removing a conflict between civilian law and military policies. Sloan is also working to make it easier for the spouses of service members transferred to Kansas who have professional licenses (e.g., accountant, teacher) to receive their Kansas license.

"While the Certificate is nice, my real reward is to make life easier for military service people and their dependents," Sloan said. "These people make significant sacrifices to serve our state and nation, my efforts try to make their lives easier."

During a previous legislative session, Sloan sponsored legislation that requires local governments to meet with military installation commanders and discuss proposed civilian developments in the vicinity of the installation. Civilian encroachment is the single largest factor in restricting military training activities and ultimately has an adverse impact on the viability of the military base (e.g., parking lot lights next to night training grounds makes night-vision goggles worthless).

Rep. Sloan is Chairman of the Vision 2020 Committee and a member of the Energy & Utilities, Local Government, and Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committees. He also is a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Military & Veterans Affairs Task Force.

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