

☛ **05hr_SC-VHSMASBGR_Appt_Moen_pt01**



☛ **Rodney C. Moen**

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Veterans, Homeland Security,
Military Affairs, Small Business and Government
Reform (SC-VHSMASBGR)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform

Moen, Rodney, of Whitehall, as a member of the Board of Veterans Affairs, to serve for the term ending May 1, 2011.

July 01, 2005 Referred to Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform.

August 24, 2005 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (4) Senators Brown, Zien, Breske and Wirch.
Absent: (1) Senator Kanavas.

Appearances For

- Terry Musser — State Representative, 92nd State Assembly District
- Jerry Petrowski — Representative, 86th Assembly District
- Rod Moen

Appearances Against

- Don Heiliger, Stoughton

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Dave Hansen — Senator, 30th Senate District
- Barbara Gronemus — Representative, 91st Assembly District
- Daniel Schmitz, Madison — DAU Dept of Wisconsin
- Wayne Corey, Madison — Wisconsin Independent Businesses
- Vicky Halverson — Representative Rob Kreibich
- Catherine Giljohann — Governor Doyle

Registrations Against

- John O'Brien, Richland Center — State Adjutant, Military Order of the Purple Heart

September 21, 2005 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Brown, Zien, Kanavas, Breske and Wirch.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Breske, seconded by Senator Wirch that **Moen, Rodney** be recommended for confirmation.

Ayes: (5) Senators Brown, Zien, Kanavas, Breske and Wirch.

Noes: (0) None.

CONFIRMATION RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0

Katie Mnuk
Committee Clerk

Vote Record
Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs,
Small Business and Government Reform

Date: 9/21

Moved by: BRESKE

Seconded by: WIRCH

AB _____

SB _____

Clearinghouse Rule _____

AJR _____

SJR _____

Appointment MOONEY MOB

AR _____

SR _____

Other _____

A/S Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____

A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:

- Passage Adoption
 Introduction Rejection

- Confirmation
 Tabling

- Concurrence
 Nonconcurrence

- Indefinite Postponement

Committee Member

Senator Ronald Brown, Chair

Aye No Absent Not Voting

Senator David Zien

Senator Ted Kanavas

Senator Roger Breske

Senator Robert Wirch

Totals: 5 _____ _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



Lindstedt, Daniel

From: Rod Moen [rodmoen@trivest.net]
Sent: Sunday, August 14, 2005 2:19 PM
To: Sen.Kanavas; Sen.Kapanke; Sen.Brown; Sen.Lazich; Sen.Zien; Sen.Stepp; Sen.Grothman;
Sen.Ellis; Sen.Roessler; Sen.Schultz; Sen.Olsen; Sen.Fitzgerald; Sen.Kedzie; Sen.Harsdorf;
Sen.Leibham; Sen.Darling; Sen.Reynolds; Sen.Cowles; Sen.Lasse@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Appointment to the Board of the Department of Veterans Affairs
Attachments: Resume of.doc

Dear Senator,

I have been appointed to the Board of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

If you would like to meet with me regarding my appointment, please let me know.

A confirmation hearing on my appointment is scheduled for August 24th.

I have attached my resume for your information.

Sincerely,

Rod Moen

08/17/2005



**County of Eau Claire
Veterans Service Office**



Clifton M. Sorenson, LPC
Veterans Service Officer

Courthouse
721 Oxford Avenue, Suite 1410
Eau Claire, WI 54703-5490
Phone (715)839-4744
Fax (715)839-6238
Email: veterans@co.eau-claire.wi.us

AUG 17 2005

SENATOR RON BROWN
ROOM 104 SOUTH STATE CAPITOL
PO BOX 7882
MADISON WI 53707-7882

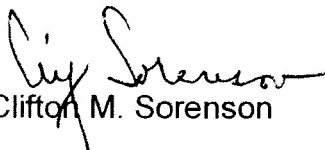
Dear Senator Brown:

I am pleased that Governor Doyle has appointed Mr. Rod Moen as a member of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Board. I am asking you to support this appointment as Mr. Moen has shown compassion and leadership in the past in the field of veterans' issues. He has long been a veterans' advocate and approaches legislation for veterans in a non-partisan manner. I feel he will continue to provide quality service to veterans into the future.

He has served his country and his state admirably in the past and, if appointed, will be an asset to the Board and the veterans of Wisconsin.

I have been serving veterans at the federal, state and county levels for the past four decades and continue to serve them today. I am well aware of the challenges and issues that are facing our veterans in Wisconsin today.

Sincerely,


Clifton M. Sorenson



AUG 18 2005

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

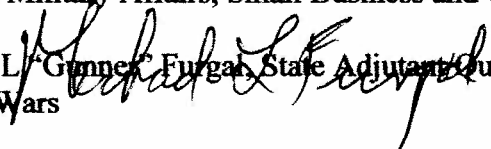
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



Office of Michael L. "Gunner" Furgal, Adjutant/Quartermaster
P.O. Box 1623 • 214 North Hamilton Street • Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1623
Phone: 608-255-6655 • Fax: 608-255-0652 • E-mail: wivfw@madison.tds.net

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform

FROM: Michael L. "Gunner" Furgal, State Adjutant/Quartermaster, Veterans of Foreign Wars 

DATE: August 17, 2005

SUBJECT: Rodney C. Moen

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of Wisconsin, strongly supports the appointment of Rodney C Moen to the Board of Veterans Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Moen is a life member of the VFW and brings to the table a distinguished military career of 22 years of active duty. He rose through the ranks in the US Navy. Starting out as a Seaman Recruit (E-1) and retired as a Lieutenant (O-3). His military service included both shore and sea duty and was highlighted by a tour of duty at the Pentagon and in Vietnam.

As you are aware, Mr. Moen was a member of the Wisconsin State Senate, where he distinguished himself a veterans' advocate. During his career in the State Senate, he always treated veterans' issues in a bipartisan manner.

It is important to the veterans of Wisconsin that Rodney C. Moen receives the consent of this Committee in order that he is allowed to continue his advocacy for veterans.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Please feel free to contact me at the VFW Headquarters if you have any questions



Lindstedt, Daniel

From: Pulda, Matt
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2005 12:56 PM
To: Lindstedt, Daniel
Subject: FW: Confirmation of Rod Moen to WI Board of Veterans Affairs.

From: heiliger [mailto:heiliger@chorus.net]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2005 11:13 AM
To: Sen.Brown
Subject: Fw: Confirmation of Rod Moen to WI Board of Veterans Affairs.

Dear Senator Brown ,

I may be unable to attend the Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs, Small Business and Government Reform tomorrow which I understand will consider the nomination of Rod Moen to the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs.

I wish to ask you to consider that it was Rod Moen that chaired this committee which held two hearings on my nomination to the Board of Veterans Affairs and held up my nomination for 3 1/2 years until you chaired the Committee meeting which led to my confirmation. In the second hearing, I was lambasted by Senators Moen, Breske, and Robson.

I am attaching below an email sent to Senator Schultz November 23, 2002 describing the 3 1/2 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Don Heiliger

Here is the email of November 23, 2002

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Heiliger [mailto:heiliger@chorus.net]
Sent: Saturday, November 23, 2002 6:10 PM
To: Sen.Schultz@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Civility

Dear Senator Schulz,

I read your Press Release of Nov 21, 2002. It truly sounds good but I fear that both sides will have a hard time adopting it. It seems like when there is a change in one house or the other, the "winning" side wants to seek at least some small revenge for what it feels were injustices when THEY were the minority. In any case, good luck. I applaud your efforts.

I am one of the 200 or so appointees whose confirmation was never confirmed by the State Senate due to never having been scheduled for a floor vote by Senator Chvala. I was appointed to the State Board of Veterans Affairs in

early fall of 1999. I met Senator Moen's committee shortly thereafter in a very friendly session but the confirmation was never brought to the floor. I again met before Senator Moen's committee in the Spring of this year (a second time!). During this hearing I was lambasted by Senator Moen, Senator Breske and Senator Robson. Of the Democrats on the committee, only Senator Jon Erpenbach was civil.

As a retired USAF colonel who spent almost 6 years in North Vietnam as a Prisoner of War, I don't think I deserved the type of treatment that was given to me by the three Senators during my second confirmation hearing. I have served honorably on the State Board of Veterans Affairs for over three years--in fact I am and have been chairman of the Board since January of this year--almost 11 months. I would like to serve the balance of my appointed term. The Board also has two others that have never been confirmed.

I hope that your influence will help those who are appointed to worthwhile offices continue in their role. If not, I will have been happy to add my guidance to the Board of Veterans Affairs.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Have a Great Day!

Don Heiliger



ROB KREIBICH
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
NINETY THIRD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

MADISON OFFICE
(608) 266-0660



DISTRICT OFFICE
(715) 839-1064

CHAIR: ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

August 23, 2005

Senator Ron Brown, Chair
Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland
Security, Military Affairs, Small Business
and Government Reform
Room 409 South
State Capitol

Dear Chairman Brown and Committee Members:

I am writing to strongly endorse the nomination of former Senator Rodney C. Moen to the Veterans Affairs Board. I have known Rod Moen for nearly twenty years, first as a reporter covering him in the State Senate, and later as a legislative colleague when I was elected in 1992. As a freshmen lawmaker, Sen. Moen was very helpful in getting me off to a quick start with lessons he learned along the way. We worked together in a bipartisan fashion on many issues between 1992 and 2002. It is because of his bipartisan approach that I am writing this letter to encourage his quick confirmation to the Veterans Board.

Rod Moen is a decorated Vietnam veteran who has shown a strong commitment to our state's veterans. As a lawmaker, he was constantly championing measures to make Wisconsin one of the best when it comes to veterans benefits. He understands that Wisconsin is best served when veterans' issues don't get bogged down in partisan politics, and he recognizes that tradition must continue for this state to build on successes of the past. He has assured me that he would bring neither a Democrat nor Republican voice to the board, but a nonpartisan voice and that his only goal was to enhance the quality of life for our veterans. As a strong supporter of current Secretary John Scocos, I believe Rod will work well with him and not undercut him because of Scocos' ties to former Secretary Ray Boland, a Republican appointee. In fact, he worked extremely well with Boland, and I trust that cooperation would continue under Secretary Scocos.

In short, Rod Moen's legislative experience and acumen, as well as his background and temperament, give me no doubt that he would be a valuable and productive addition to the Veterans Board. I appreciate you holding a prompt hearing on his appointment, and am certain he will frankly answer any questions or concerns you or your colleagues might have. I have always found Rod to be a "straight shooter" who is sincere about taking care of veterans in this great state. He has a twenty year record of accomplishment to prove it.

Chairman Brown – page 2

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and this prospective candidate for the Veterans Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Kreibich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

Rob Kreibich
State Representative
93rd Assembly District





KENNETH KUEHNL, JR.
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
PAST DEPT. COMMANDER

3326 GREEN MEADOWS LANE
RACINE, WI 53405-4707
PH: 262-554-0365
FAX: 262-554-0177
e-Mail: cadwell@acronet.net

AUG 24 2005

August 23, 2005

The Honorable Ron Brown
State Senator
PO Box 7882
Madison WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Brown,

The Disabled American Veterans Department of Wisconsin would like to enthusiastically endorse the confirmation of Mr. Rodney C. Moen as a member of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs. His grasp and knowledge of veterans issues are very extensive and have greatly assisted me as Legislative Director Department of Wisconsin.

Mr. Moen had a distinguished record of service in the United States Navy that spanned 22 years. He rose through the enlisted ranks from Seaman Recruit to Chief Petty Officer and through the commissioned ranks from Warrant Officer and ensign to Lieutenant providing him with a comprehensive understanding of military life from the perspectives of both enlisted sailors and officers.

Mr. Moen was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 1982, he served for the next twenty years including periods as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs during which time he earned a well-deserved reputation as a leading veterans advocate who aggressively worked to ensure the maintenance of the Senate committee's long standing tradition of treating veterans and military affairs in a completely non-partisan manner.



*Chartered by an act
of Congress in 1932.*

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
P.O. BOX 14301
CINCINNATI, OH 45250-0301
(606) 441-7300



KENNETH KUEHNL, JR.
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
PAST DEPT. COMMANDER

3326 GREEN MEADOWS LANE
RACINE, WI 53405-4707
PH: 262-554-0365
FAX: 262-554-0177
e-Mail: cadwell@acronet.net

The Disabled American Veterans Department of Wisconsin feel that Mr. Moen's non-partisan approach to veterans advocacy, his vast experience in veterans affairs and his proven leadership skills make him superbly qualified to represent Wisconsin's veterans as a member of the Board of Veterans Affairs.

We urge you and the members of your committee to support his confirmation a member of the Board.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Kuehnl Jr.
Legislative Director
Disabled American Veterans
Department of Wisconsin

Cc: Sen. Dave Zien
Sen. Ted Kanavas
Sen. Roger Breske
Sen. Bob Wirsch
DAV HQ WI



*Chartered by an act
of Congress in 1932.*

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
P.O. BOX 14301
CINCINNATI, OH 45250-0301
(606) 441-7300





Wisconsin Department Military Order of the Purple Heart

John O'Brien, Department Adjutant
Jr. Vice Commander / Legislative Officer
26570 Fiddlers Green Road
Richland Center, WI 53581
Home (608) 647-8491
Mobile (608) 604 2278

August 24, 2005

Hon. Ronald Brown, Chairman and Members

Senate Committee on Veterans,
Homeland Security, and Military Affairs,
Small Business and Government Reform

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I provide this testimony today as a Veteran, specifically as a combat wounded veteran and the Department Adjutant and elected officer of the Wisconsin Department of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. I am also a member of other veteran's organizations but am not testifying on their behalf and my testimony does not represent their position. In addition my testimony today has no connection whatever with my employment nor am I testifying on behalf of my employer.

Our organization has always championed the independence and non-partisan nature of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs. In general those confirmed to the Board of Veterans affairs have shunned partisanship in favor of what is right for those veterans who served this nation. In most cases our organization has registered in favor of governor's appointees to the board, regardless of their known political affiliation. We support appointees who will leave their politics outside of the Veterans Affairs Board Room and will set policy on what is best for all veterans.

Today we must object to the appointment of former Senator Rod Moen. We recognize that during his tenure in the legislature and as the long-time Chair of the Senate Veterans Committee, in most cases Senator Moen did what was right for veterans. But as we all know, in most case casting a vote in favor of veterans is not a difficult choice. An individual's true nature can best be assessed by their actions when having to make difficult choices.

Our objection to this appointment is based on a difficult choice Senator Moen made as Chair of the Senate Veterans Committee. We believe that the choice he made speaks volumes about what is truly important to him; his choice was to place partisan politics above his duty as a recognized leader and spokesman for his fellow veterans.

The choice he made was first to hold up the appointment of Patriot Donald Heiliger a member of our organization, for 3 ½ years, before holding a hearing on his appointment in 2003.

I was present at that hearing to testify on behalf of Patriot and American Hero Don Heiliger. In all honesty, I was shocked at the manner in which Senator Moen and some other member of the committee treated this hero of our nation. Patriot Heiliger was and is held in the highest regard by members of the veteran's community. Patriot Heiliger retired as a Colonel from the United States Air Force in 1985, after a 30-year career. He was both a fighter pilot and navigator. In 1967, while piloting an F-105 during the Vietnam War, he was shot down on his 44th combat mission and spent nearly six years as a Prisoner Of War in North Vietnam. The stories about Don's patriotic acts when a POW, have become legend within the combat veterans brotherhood.

Rather than lead a discussion on Patriot Heiliger's background and qualifications to be a board member, Senator Moen instead made the choice to lead a personal partisan attack against Patriot Heiliger. This personal attack was based on a public position Mr. Heiliger had taken on a candidate for state office, prior to his being asked to serve on the Board of Veterans Affairs.

Senator Moen chose to unfairly equate Mr. Heiliger's activity as a private citizen as an indicator that Mr. Heiliger was a partisan appointee and thus was not an appropriate candidate for the board.

As a veteran himself we find it difficult to believe that Senator Moen would have chosen to lead this unfair and uncalled for partisan attack against Patriot Heiliger without outside influence.

We feel that Senator Moen's actions on that day demonstrate that his choices have been and can be influenced by partisanship. The Military Order of the Purple Heart champions the independence and non-partisan nature of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs. Therefore we cannot in good conscience support this nomination.

In Patriotism

John O'Brien, Department Adjutant
Jr. Vice Commander / Legislative Officer
WI Dept. Military Order of the Purple Heart



Resume of

Rodney C. Moen

Education

Graduate of Whitehall Memorial High School, Whitehall, Wi.
Attended the Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y.
Attended Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.
Graduate of the University of Southern California (B.A.), Los Angeles, Ca.
Did Graduate Work at Ball State University, Muncie, In.

Military Service

Rose through the enlisted ranks from Seaman Recruit (E-1) to Chief Petty Officer (E-7) and through the commissioned ranks from Warrant Officer (W-1) to Chief Warrant Officer (W-3) and Ensign (O-1) to Lieutenant (O-3) during 22 years of active duty.

Served at the following military organizations: NTC Great Lakes, Ill., NATTC Norman, Ok., NATTU Pensacola, Fl., NAS Cubi Point, Philippines, PMR Point Mugu, Calif., USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63), San Diego, Ca., CHINFO, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., COMSEVENTHFLT, DET CHARLIE, Saigon, RVN, USS John F. Kennedy (CVA-67), Norfolk, Va., and the Defense Information School, Fort Benjamin Harrison, In.

Experience after retiring from the military

General Manager of the Western Wisconsin Communications Cooperative,
Independence, Wi.
Member of the Wisconsin State Senate
Currently Mayor, City of Whitehall

Current occupation

Retired

Current address

Rodney C. Moen
18775 Dewey Street
P.O. Box 215
Whitehall, Wi. 54773-0215
(715) 538-4566
e-mail: rodmoen@triwest.net