

**TESTIMONY OF JERRY D. HAYS—H.B. 254**  
**Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans**

This written testimony is submitted on behalf of the Ohio State Association of Veterans Service Commissioners (OSAVSC).

I am a resident of Montgomery County, Ohio and the President of the Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission. I am a retired High School NJROTC Instructor from Belmont High School Dayton, OH from 1996 to 2015. I served in the United States Marine Corps from 1969 to 1979 with combat service in Viet Nam and the United States Navy 1980 to 1992 with service in Desert Storm. I served as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the OSAVSC and am currently the President of the OSAVSC.

The OSAVSC strongly advocates for the passage of House Bill 254 expanding the disabled veteran's homestead tax exemption by increasing the amount of the exemption to equal all taxes owed on the homestead for the tax year.

The bill increases the value of the disabled veterans homestead exemption so that a totally disabled veteran pays no property taxes on the veteran's homestead, though the homestead remains subject to special assessments. This bill would greatly help those veterans who are living on fixed incomes and will see increases in levies for schools, as well as other taxes and assessments, allowing them to better afford the increases which will surely come over time.

This bill recognizes the service of disabled veterans and the special sacrifices they have made for our country.

We advocate passage of this legislation and thank you for allowing us to be heard on this important matter. We thank you for your support and concern for the welfare of Ohio's disabled veterans.