**Letter in Support of a Veterans Studies Certificate**

For almost forty years I have been offering courses on military conflict, including the wars fought by the United States. Courses on conflict include Modern War America at war, and The Korean War. In that time I have seen increasing number of veterans. At first, these consisted of men and women who served in Vietnam and who wanted to understand our military conflicts, their origins, their conduct, and their impact. The numbers of veterans began to increase as our wars in the Middle East opened with the conflict with Iraq over Kuwait in 1990. Since then and especially after the attack on the United States by Terrorist on September 11th, 2001, more and more veterans wanted explanations and understanding. Many also wanted some way to cope with the stress of combat and a more inclusive approach, considering gender as an important component of our wars and wars in general.

Veterans now make up an important part of the University and undergraduates in the History Department. Their concerns and their goals have certainly been affected by their time in the military. It is important to recognize their needs, especially as our wars continue unabated and the war on Terrorism seems to have no end given the persistence of the enemies of peace. Veterans will continue to be a part of our undergraduate community and deserve special attention, given their own sacrifices made in the service of our nation and its principles. It is imperative that we acknowledge the debt we owe them and the necessity to meet their educational and psychological concerns. The Veterans Studies Certificate will accomplish these goals and continue to meet the needs of veterans over many years. As a global power, it is unlikely that the United States will not be involved in conflicts somewhere in the world and these will produce a steadily expanding number of veterans who see the University as a route to a viable career and, as critical, a source of understanding their own experiences in a broader context. I strongly and enthusiastically endorsed the creation of a Veterans Studies Certificate at the University of Utah.

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