



ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) A key legislative committee considers a budget request for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs this week that includes a provision for funding honor guards at military funerals. Gov. Mark Dayton's has proposed \$400,000 to help pay for the honor guards, as funding from veteran service

organizations and the federal government dwindles.

The families of about 4,800 Minnesota veterans are expected to request the honor guards at their funerals this year, up by more than 400 from last year.

The Army National Guard has 17 members in teams in Moorhead, St. Cloud, Cottage Grove and Duluth. Each team performs as many as four funerals a day. The funeral honor guard includes a detail of at least two uniformed members who fold and present a U.S. flag and play taps.