

By: Representative Pitsch

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH 29, 2018, AS VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.

Subtitle

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VETERANS DAY.

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from 1956 to 1975, and involved regular forces of the People's Army of Vietnam and guerrilla forces of the National Liberation Front ("Viet Cong") in armed conflict with United States Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct military support to the Government of the Republic of Vietnam ("South Vietnam") to defend itself against the growing Communist threat from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam ("North Vietnam"); and

WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to South Vietnam in 1961; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, the United States Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, Pub. L. No. 88-408, on August 7, 1964, which provided the authority to the President of the United States to prosecute the war against North Vietnam; and



WHEREAS, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, by the end of 1965, there were one hundred eighty thousand (180,000) United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of approximately five hundred forty-three thousand (543,000) military personnel was reached; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese forces captured Saigon, the capitol of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control; and

WHEREAS, more than fifty-eight thousand (58,000) members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than three hundred thousand (300,000) members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the United States public to acknowledge and honor their service and their sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely

and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made by four (4) presidential administrations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Vietnam Veterans Day would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, March 29, 2018, would be an appropriate day to establish as Vietnam Veterans Day,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives honor and recognize the service and the sacrifice of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace and proclaim March 29, 2018, as Vietnam Veterans Day.