

By: Representative K. Moore

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE HMONG COMMUNITY OF ARKANSAS AND THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS PEOPLE TO THEIR CULTURE AND TO
OUR COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THE HMONG COMMUNITY OF
ARKANSAS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITS
PEOPLE TO THEIR CULTURE AND TO OUR
COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, the Hmong community is a group of caring and hardworking individuals who have acculturated into the area by becoming productive members of the communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, the Hmong community numbers approximately two thousand five hundred (2,500) members in northwest Arkansas, one thousand (1,000) members in Sebastian County, five hundred (500) members each in Pulaski and Pike Counties, and two hundred fifty (250) members in Madison County; and

WHEREAS, Hmong community members are agriculturists, teachers, law enforcement officers, poultry and livestock producers, and healthcare workers who look for ways to be productive in society while also working to preserve their culture through teaching the next generations about their language, customs, and traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Hmong New Year celebration marks the end of the harvest festival; and



WHEREAS, the Hmong New Year is a huge celebration in which the Hmong people wear traditional embroidered clothing, traditional food is served, traditional games are played, sports competitions are held, dancing and music is performed, and there is courtship between young people; and

WHEREAS, the Hmong community in northwest Arkansas has a forty-acre property in Summers, Arkansas, that is used for the Hmong New Year celebration and other events, and this is a great place for the community to assemble and live out their mission of preserving and teaching the next generation their cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, during the Laotian Civil War, also known as the Secret War, which took place during the time of the Vietnam War, the Hmong people rescued downed United States pilots and ground infantry, protected a United States radar called "Lima Site 85", and attacked North Vietnamese soldiers on the Ho Chi Minh Trail to prevent them from getting to South Vietnam, operations which saved thousands of American and Laotian lives; and

WHEREAS, when these brave Hmong people were under threat from the advance of the North Vietnamese Army toward the Hmong base at Long Tieng in Laos, Central Intelligence Agency Paramilitary Operations Officer Jerrold B. "Jerry" Daniels organized the air evacuation into Thailand of his liaison, Hmong General Vang Pao, and more than two thousand (2,000) of Vang Pao's brave officers, soldiers, and their families; and

WHEREAS, thousands more Hmong people then fled across the Mekong River to Thailand and began living in refugee camps there, and because of the Hmong people's brave support of the United States's presence in Laos, Jerrold B. "Jerry" Daniels worked with these refugees to facilitate their safe resettlement in a number of nations, including the United States,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize the Hmong community of Arkansas and the contributions of its people to their culture and to our communities in the State of Arkansas.