

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON

Sponsor Statement HB 67

“An Act establishing March 29th of each year as Vietnam Veterans Day”

In 2012, the United States Senate and the President designated March 29, as Vietnam Veterans Day. It marked the 38th anniversary of the withdrawal of U.S. combat and combat-support units from Vietnam.

On March 29, 1973, all U.S. troops withdrew from Vietnam, marking an end of the 10 year United States military involvement. Upon their return, Vietnam Veterans were not greeted with parades or triumphant speeches such as the ones delivered at the end of each of the World Wars. Instead, Vietnam veterans returned home to silence, and in some cases, to abuse for having served their country during a controversial war.

House Bill 67 would dedicate March 29th of each year as Vietnam Veterans Day in Alaska to commemorate the military service of American men and women in Vietnam. The day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

I would appreciate your support for House Bill 67.