

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES LEDOUX, Peggy Wilson, Gruenberg

Introduced: 2/15/13

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming May 15 to be Hmong-American Veterans Memorial Day.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS**, beginning in 1960, the United States Central Intelligence Agency
4 recruited thousands of Hmong to fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and North
5 Vietnamese Army regulars in Laos; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in July, 1961, Brigadier General Edward G. Lansdale wrote in a memo
7 to General Maxwell D. Taylor that "about 9,000 Hmong tribesmen have been equipped for
8 guerrilla operations, which they are now conducting with considerable effectiveness in
9 Communist-dominated territory in Laos"; and

10 **WHEREAS** as many as 100,000 Hmong were recruited and trained as Special
11 Guerrilla Units to engage the North Vietnamese Army; and

12 **WHEREAS** the United States relied heavily on the Special Guerrilla Units to interdict
13 the flow of the communist reinforcement and war supplies on the Ho Chi Minh Trail; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Hmong, although outnumbered, fought against enemy forces to
15 disrupt the flow of troops and war supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Hmong conducted tactical guerrilla actions, flew thousands of deadly

1 combat missions in support of the United States Armed Forces and the Central Intelligence
2 Agency, and fought in conventional and guerilla combat with extreme casualties; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Hmong protected United States personnel, guarded United States Air
4 Force radar installations, gathered critical intelligence about enemy operations, and undertook
5 rescue missions to save the lives of downed United States pilots; and

6 **WHEREAS** about 40,000 Hmong lost their lives defending democracy,
7 approximately 50,000 Hmong were seriously injured and disabled, and 3,000 Hmong were
8 missing in action; and

9 **WHEREAS** Hmong soldiers died at 10 times the rate of American soldiers in the
10 Vietnam War; and

11 **WHEREAS**, because the war effort of the United States in Laos was covert, accounts
12 of the sacrifices and service of the Hmong veterans remain largely untold; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Hmong became refugees because the United States government
14 encouraged them to fight for the United States, and, as a result, thousands of family members
15 of Hmong soldiers were evacuated to a United States airbase in Thailand to avoid bloody
16 vengeance by communists in Laos and Vietnam; and

17 **WHEREAS**, after the conclusion of the war, thousands of Hmong soldiers suffered
18 acts of retribution and atrocities by the Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese, causing hundreds of
19 thousands of Hmong refugees to flee to neighboring Thailand; and

20 **WHEREAS** approximately 50,000 Hmong veterans reside in the United States, and
21 150,000 Hmong and Laotian-born children have graduated from schools in this country; and

22 **WHEREAS** little is known or taught in the United States about Hmong history and
23 the contributions made to the United States by the Hmong people; and

24 **WHEREAS** future generations of Hmong-Americans may not learn the full history of
25 the Hmong people's honorable service to the United States unless the Hmong are formally
26 commemorated; and

27 **WHEREAS** state and local governments have issued proclamations declaring May 15
28 as Hmong Veterans of America Day;

29 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims May 15 to be
30 Hmong-American Veterans Memorial Day, to promote, publicize, and increase awareness of
31 the important role the Hmong have played in United States history, to commemorate Hmong

- 1 History Month, and to afford an opportunity for people to recognize the service and sacrifice
- 2 of the Hmong with appropriate ceremonies and activities.