

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 55

Expressing support for designation of a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 16, 2011

Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. JOHANNES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

MARCH 7, 2011

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designation of a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”.

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of South Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with United States Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct military support to the Government of South Vietnam to defend itself against the growing Communist threat from North Vietnam;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1961;

Whereas, as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88–408), on August 7, 1964, which provided the authority to the President of the United States to prosecute the war against North Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

Whereas, by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was 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;

Whereas, on March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;

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

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded;

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;

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 the efforts and services of such veterans;

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 4 presidential administrations in the United States;

Whereas the establishment of a “Welcome Home 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 30, 2011, would be an appropriate day to establish as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) honors and recognizes the contributions of
3 veterans who served in the United States Armed
4 Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace;

5 (2) encourages States and local governments to
6 also establish “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
7 Day”; and

1 (3) encourages the people of the United States
2 to observe “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”
3 with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

4 (A) provide the appreciation Vietnam War
5 veterans deserve, but did not receive upon re-
6 turning home from the war;

7 (B) demonstrate the resolve that never
8 again shall the Nation disregard and denigrate
9 a generation of veterans;

10 (C) promote awareness of the faithful serv-
11 ice and contributions of such veterans during
12 their military service as well as to their commu-
13 nities since returning home;

14 (D) promote awareness of the importance
15 of entire communities empowering veterans and
16 the families of veterans to readjust to civilian
17 life after military service; and

18 (E) promote opportunities for such vet-
19 erans to assist younger veterans returning from
20 the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in rehabilita-
21 tion from wounds, both seen and unseen, and to
22 support the reintegration of younger veterans
23 into civilian life.

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