

**HB**

**92**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 92</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
92</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA27</COMM></TARGET>



**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 92(STA)**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Offered:**  
**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES PETERSEN, Gruenberg**

**A BILL**  
**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to special request Lao veteran registration plates; and providing for an**  
2 **effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 28.10.181 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 (bb) Special request Lao veteran plates. Upon application by the owner of a  
6 motor vehicle, the department may issue registration plates commemorating the  
7 owner's service in military operations in support of the United States in the Kingdom  
8 of Laos between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975. The commissioner shall  
9 determine the design and color of the Lao veteran plates in consultation with veterans'  
10 and Southeast Asian community organizations in the state. To be issued a registration  
11 plate under this subsection, the owner must present evidence satisfactory to the  
12 department that the owner served in military operations as required by this subsection.  
13 The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this  
14 subsection when the requested plates are a duplicate of an existing registration.

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\* **Sec. 2.** AS 28.10.421(d)(2) is amended to read:

(2) special request plates for

- (A) Alaska National Guard personnel ..... \$30;
- (B) veterans, [OR] retired veterans, or Lao veterans ..... \$30;
- (C) recipients of the Purple Heart ..... none;
- (D) owners of custom collector vehicles ..... \$50;
- (E) Iditarod race finishers ..... \$50;
- (F) other special request plates ..... \$30;

plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b) of this section; the fee required by this paragraph shall be collected only on the first issuance and on the replacement of special request plates;

\* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2012.

# Alaska State Legislature



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State Affairs Committee

## Member

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Military and Veterans Affairs

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*A Communication From*  
**REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN**  
**District 31 Anchorage**

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## FAX

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# of Pages (including cover): 1

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Re HB 92 – Please draft final CS

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3/8/2011

CS for HB 92 Version B moved out of the House State Affairs Committee this morning with no changes. Please draft the **final** House State Affairs CS for HB 92

27-LS0375\B

27-LS0375\B  
Luckhaupt  
2/28/11

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**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

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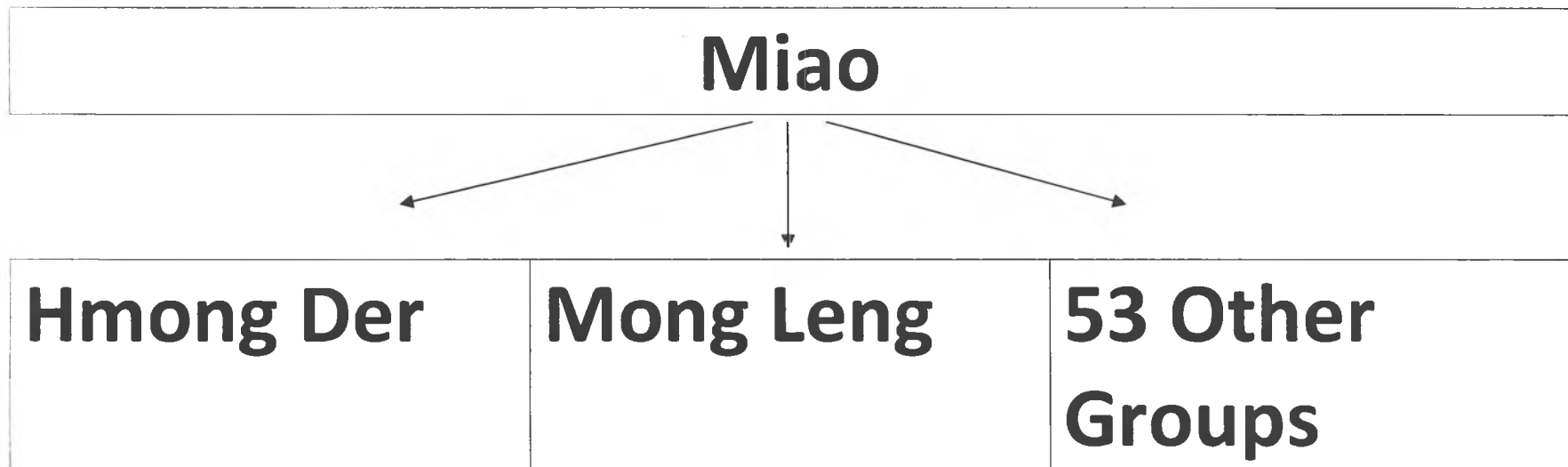
\* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2012.

## **Changes in CS for HB92:**

- Allowed for US and non-US veterans to request plates as long as they served in Laos during from 2/28/61-5/15/75
- Changed “combat” to “military operations”
- Changed “Hmong” to “Southeast Asian” to accommodate any and all ethnic groups in military operations in Laos at this time

## **Clarification:**

- Did not list the “evidence” (Page1, Line11) since legal said they have never done that before and leave this up to the discretion of DMV, but will prepare a list of acceptable evidence from other similar bills and will forward to DMV if bill moves forward
- People with leased cars would still be able to get the special request plates since they would be the “registered owner” according to legal



**Mèo – Vietnamese nomenclature for Chinese group “Miao”. Used to refer to Hmong and other Miao groups in Vietnam and is viewed as derogatory, or as an insult, outside of SE Asia.**

**Montagnards – Term coined by French colonizers meaning “Mountain People”. Refers to the Hmong in the mountains of SE Asia, and the Dagar, a people indigenous to the mountains of Vietnam.**

# Alaska State Legislature

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## Sponsor Statement

### HB 92: Lao Veteran Registration Plates

House Bill 92 would recognize and honor Lao veterans who fought in support of United States (US) military operations in the Kingdom of Laos between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975, by issuing new registration plates commemorating the owner's service in combat.

The most conservative estimated numbers during the US involvement in the Vietnam War are 35,000-40,000 brave young Hmong killed in combat; 50,000-58,000 wounded; and 3,000 missing in action. After the US withdrawal from Southeast Asia, thousands more Hmong were killed during genocide carried out by communist forces during the Hmong attempt to flee to neighboring Thailand. (LaoVeterans.com)

"Every (Hmong) that died, that was an American back home that didn't die, or one that was injured that wasn't injured. Somebody in nearly every Hmong family was either fighting or died from fighting...They became refugees because we (United States Government)...encouraged them to fight for us. I promised them myself, 'Have no fear, we will take care of you.'" - Edgar Buell, Senior US Aid/CIA official working with the Hmong army, "60 Minutes", March 4, 1979

The most recent numbers set the US Hmong population between 200,000-300,000; with the Alaska population at almost 4,700 and rising. Many Hmong have immigrated here following the Vietnam conflict after persecution for supporting the US. This would be a great way to honor their service and support.

The color and design of the Lao veteran plates will be determined by the commissioner in consultation with veteran's and Hmong community organizations.

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## Sectional Analysis

### HB 92: Lao Veteran Registration Plates

**Section 1** establishes a subsection to AS 28.10.181 regarding special request Lao veteran plates. A Lao veteran plate will be issued once the owner presents evidence satisfactory to the Department of Administration (DOA) that they served in combat in support of United States military operations in the Kingdom of Laos between February 28, 1961, and May 15, 1975. Also, that the commissioner shall determine the design and color of the Lao veteran plates in consultation with veteran's and Hmong community organizations in the state.

**Section 2** establishes an amendment to AS 28.10.421(d)(2) to add "Lao Veterans" as a category for special request plates and sets a fee of \$30.

**Section 3** establishes an effective date of January 1, 2012.

## Laos

### “Secret Warriors”

In 1961, when the Vietnam War officially started, another war also waged. This war was known as the Secret War and took place in Laos. Like its name the Secret War was a total secret. The countries involved in the Secret War were the U.S., Thailand, Laos, and North Vietnam. The preludes to the Secret War were differing opinions by political parties on the governmental structure that would reign in Vietnam. This war caused havoc and grief to the people that occupied the territories that became the battlegrounds. In 1961 North Vietnam began advancing into South Vietnam, using military forces, with the intentions of establishing communist type government in Laos. The Pathet Lao, the communist Laos party, allied with North Vietnam while the Royal Laotian party, party in power in Laos, allied with Thailand and the U.S.

Thailand perceived the threat in having Laos, its neighbor, being overtaken by the a communist regime. They knew that if Laos lost, then the natural progression would be for them to be the next target for conquest. The United States of America (U.S.A.) was/is considered the champions of democracy and joined the alliance because they did not want communism to gain strength and spread. These three countries came together and took on the task of stopping the spread of communism into Laos. This war between communist Vietnam and the alliance was known as the Secret War.

Look for Cold War Policies and the Domino Theory

The Geneva Accords of 1954, was the first world country to send soldiers into third world countries thus the U.S.A. needed find a way to help the fight against communism. Thus, they recruited the Hmong and trained, paid, and provided military weapons to them; for the purpose of engagement in guerrilla warfare against the North Vietnamese.



(Image from book: War in Laos)

Here is a picture of one of the first U.S. training groups.



(Image from book: War in Laos)

Here is a picture of Hmong guerillas getting briefing before.

Hmong soldiers rescued downed American pilots from enemy territories and defended American outposts in Laos. One such outpost was an airport by the name of Luang Prabang. Whole groups of Hmong soldiers risked and lost their lives to save one American pilot. They also attacked many North Vietnamese convoy that were using the Ho Chi Minh trail, which cross Northern Laos from North Vietnam into South Vietnam. By attacking these supplies thousands of U.S. soldiers did not die in South Vietnam. The Hmong adult male population was decimated toward the end of the war and to make up the difference, children were recruited, trained in the same tactics and strategies of war and sent to combat. Thailand's also trained Hmongs, formed them into guerrilla groups, and provided air support for them when in combat. They valiantly fought for their cause through out the entire Secret War.

When the U.S. withdrew its troops from South Vietnam in 1975, they also withdrew the training teams, military weapons, and financial support from Laos and the Hmong. This action weakened the Laotian government and Hmong guerillas army that depended on that support. The Pathet Lao communist party eventually took over Laos and the Hmong that were left behind were seen as a threat and persecuted. Deserted by their U.S. allies, the Hmong had to flee to Thailand for refuge. The Secret War ended in the same year as the Vietnam War—1975. The Hmong did not feel this finality, for to this day they still are persecuted

### "The Secret War"



General Vang Pao led the CIA's "Secret War" in Laos.

In the early 1960s, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) Special Activities Division began to recruit, train and lead the indigenous Hmong people in Laos to fight against North Vietnamese Army intruders into Laos during the Vietnam War. It became a Special Guerrilla Unit led by General Vang Pao. About 60% of the Hmong men in Laos were assisted by the CIA to join fighting for the "Secret War" in Laos.<sup>[29][30]</sup> The CIA used the Special Guerrilla Unit as

the counter attack unit to block the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the main military supply route from the north to the south. Hmong soldiers served against the NVA and the Pathet Lao, helping block the Hanoi's Ho Chi Minh trail inside Laos and rescuing downed American pilots. Between 1967 and 1971, a total of 3,772 Hmong soldiers were killed; another 5,426 were wounded.<sup>[31]</sup> Between 1962 and 1975, some 12,000 Hmong also died fighting against Communist Pathet Lao troops.<sup>[32]</sup>

General Vang Pao led the Region II (MR2) defense against NVA incursion from his headquarters in Long Cheng, also known as Lima Site 20 Alternate (LS 20A).<sup>[33]</sup> At the height of its activity, Long Cheng became the second largest city in Laos. Long Cheng was a micro-nation operational site with its own bank, airport, school system, officials, and many other facilities and services in addition to its military units. Before the end of the Secret War, Long Cheng would fall in and out of General Vang Pao's control.

The Secret War began about the time the United States became actively involved in the Vietnam War. Two years after the U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam, the Kingdom of Laos was overthrown by communist troops supported by the North Vietnamese Army. The Hmong people immediately became targets of retaliation and persecution. While some Hmong returned to their villages and attempted to resume life under the new regime, thousands more made the trek across the Mekong River into Thailand, often under attack. This marked the beginning of a mass exodus of Hmong from Laos. Those who reached Thailand were kept in squalid United Nations refugee camps until they could be resettled. Nearly 20 years later, in the 1990s, a major international debate ensued over whether Hmong refugees remaining in Thailand should be forcibly repatriated to Laos, where they were still subject to persecution, or should be allowed to emigrate to the United States and other Western nations.

(From "Memories of the Secret War")

# Why Are the Hmong in America?

Essay by Jeff Lindsay, Appleton, Wisconsin  
(Published in *FutureHmong Magazine*, June 2002, pp. 14-15.)

Like their American counterparts, many Hmong people in the United States do not really understand why the Hmong are here. Most Hmong young people know that they are here because of fighting that occurred in Laos, but do they really understand the monumental sacrifice their people made to help the United States? And do non-Hmong Americans understand their debt of gratitude to the Hmong people? Given the misunderstandings I have seen on both sides, I think it would be helpful to review a little history.

In the late 1950s, southeast Asia, including Laos, was viewed as an important region to the West. With the fall of China to communism and the rise of Communist rebellion in Vietnam, the US sent elite soldiers, the Green Berets, to train Hmong guerrillas to oppose the Vietnamese and the Pathet Lao communists of Laos. Though the Hmong had no desire to play political roles for other nations, they loved freedom and know that there would be little freedom under Communism. They were threatened by the intrusion of North Vietnamese troops into Laos, so the U.S. then encouraged them to fight and provided training and weapons. With CIA assistance, General Vang Pao became the leader of a secret army of 9,000 Hmong men in 1961. Laos was officially neutral as the Vietnam War broke out, and the US had signed an international agreement, the Geneva Accords, intended to keep Laos neutral and prevent fighting there. In reality, this agreement gave the Communists the upper hand, for they flagrantly violated the agreement. Responding to the presence of active North Vietnamese troops in Laos, the US tried to oppose them without appearing to violate the Geneva Accords by secretly recruiting freedom-loving locals to fight the Communist -- and these freedom-loving locals were the Hmong.

Most Americans thought that Laos was not part of the Vietnam War, but Laos played a critical role, especially since supplies from North Vietnam to its warring troops primarily moved along the Ho Chi Minh trail that passed through Laos. Much fighting occurred along this trail and the surrounding regions in Laos. But our military efforts there were not publicized to avoid international criticism. So we pretended that nothing was happening in Laos, while North

Vietnamese troops were actively helping the Pathet Lao take over the country, and while thousands of poorly-equipped Hmong were fighting a war against terrible odds. Many Hmong lives would be lost in the unpublicized battles of Laos.

The Hmong apparently were told that they could bravely fight for the U.S. because the United States would always be there to protect them should local communists turn on the Hmong. It was a relationship of trust, but Hmong trust in the US would be sadly misplaced.

In 1963 the Kennedy Administration had the CIA increase the secret Hmong army in Laos to 20,000 soldiers. Significant battles occurred as the North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao occupied major areas in northern Laos in 1964. Meanwhile, the US began a secret air war in Laos. By 1968, US pilots would be doing 300 dangerous sorties a day to battle many thousands of Communist troops. Hmong soldiers rescued many American pilots who were shot down. Sometimes dozens of Hmong would die in order to rescue one American pilot. Over 100 Hmong pilots were recruited and trained by the US, and they ran mission after mission until they were all killed. Hmong courage seemed to know no bounds in the fight for freedom. But sadly, much of the fighting seems to have been in vain.

Years after the war, when the infamous "Pentagon Papers" were published, shocked Americans and Hmong patriots would learn that much of the war was fought by the United States under secret rules that we agreed to that almost guaranteed the fall of South Vietnam to the Communists. Just as the Hmong were told to only fight defensively and not to take steps that could directly throw the North Vietnamese out of their country, so too were U.S. actions continually hampered by rules of engagement, apparently orchestrated by Robert S. McNamara, the US Secretary of Defense at the time. For example, US pilots were not allowed to attack Viet Cong anti-aircraft installations until they were fully functional. Though hotly debated, many are convinced that the war could have been won by cutting off supplies to the North Vietnamese and hitting them in the regions where they were most vulnerable -- something that was forbidden by our rules of engagement. Instead, American soldiers died unnecessarily in jungle skirmishes that gave an upper hand to those familiar with the territory.

The loss of 60,000 American lives for a no-win war in Vietnam was a tragedy to the huge nation of America, but it was a relatively small percentage of the nation compared to the loss the Hmong people suffered. In 1969, at the time when Congress first learned of our secret war in Laos, about 18,000 Hmong soldiers had already been killed in battle died, and many women and children had died as well. The Hmong were taking a great risk in boldly fighting for the United States, trusting that we would stand by them. But in 1973, the U.S. began to pull out of Laos, leaving the Hmong on their own to fight thousands of North Vietnamese troops in Laos. By 1975, Laos had fallen completely into Communist hands, and the lives of all Hmong people who helped fight the Communists were in jeopardy. More than 100,000 Hmong fled to Thai refugee camps. Many would be killed along the way, especially when crossing the Mekong River to get to Thailand. An estimated 30,000 Hmong would be killed by Communist forces while trying to reach Thailand. Over 100,000 Hmong people died as a result of the war, and today nearly every Hmong family in the US has terrible tales of loss and tragedy relating to the war.

After taking over Laos in 1975, the Pathet Lao Communists stated that they would wipe out the Hmong. A Vietnamese broadcast apparently called for genocide against them. From 1976 to 1979, there were credible reports of chemical warfare used against Hmong villages. The world tried to ignore these reports, and some influential voices in the United States tried to discredit the evidence, claiming that the "yellow rain" that had been used to kill Hmong people was just natural bee feces, not a chemical toxin. By the time overwhelming evidence had been gathered to shatter the "bee feces" theory, the media no longer seemed interested in exploring charges of genocide by Communist forces.

The United States, recognizing the sacrifice made by Hmong soldiers to fight for the U.S., began accepting Hmong refugees into the United States in December of 1975. By 1990, about 100,000 refugees had entered the United States. Today approximately 250,000 Hmong are in the U.S., and a similar number still live in Laos. Over 5 million Hmong people are in Southern China, also under Communist rule.

Writing to an American who was confused about the Hmong people, Jack Austin Smith, a Vietnam Veteran and a retired career soldier, wrote the following in 1996 (quoted from his e-mail to me, with permission):

The war in Vietnam was fought on several fronts and I served in two them. The main American battle ground was in the Southern end of South Vietnam. In order for the North Vietnamese forces to fight us there, it was necessary for their supplies and troops to go through Laos and Cambodia on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and Laos was controlled by a Pro-Communist Government at that time. Therefore America was not allowed to have any forces on the ground, although we were allowed to bomb and attack North Vietnamese troops with our aerial forces. About 99% of the combat forces on the ground were Hmong irregulars who were persuaded by Americans to forget about being neutral, and to fight the N. Vietnamese regulars (not relatively poorly trained Viet Cong guerrilla forces). We supplied air cover, but every combat trooper knows aircraft can't take and hold ground. We depended on the Hmongs to do this. Without modern arms, without medical help.

After the fall of Saigon we pulled out of Southeast Asia and left the Hmongs to continue the fight without air support. When we left, the Hmong had to fight both the Laotians and the N. Vietnamese. They could not fight tanks, heavy artillery and aircraft with rifles. A great many Hmongs were slaughtered in their villages. Many were slaughtered at airfields where they waited for evacuation planes that never came. A few were able to fight every foot of the way across Laos and cross the Mekong River into refugee camps in Thailand where they were further mistreated by rather corrupt UN and Thai officials. Out of a estimated 3,000,000 prewar Hmong population less than 200,000 made it to safety. One other ill informed or stupid writer said "they were all gone" meaning, I guess, that the combat Hmongs were all dead, they are wrong. Most of the survivors are in Australia, France and here among us.

Now I don't know about those heroes who have never heard a shot fired in anger, but I am embarrassed that my country so mislead these people. The Hmongs gave up literally everything for us: their country, their homes, their peaceful way of life, most of their families, everything that we would cherish. We promised them our continued support and then we bugged out.

You mentioned having relatives who fought in Vietnam and I hope they all survived. However their chances would have been much less if the Hmongs hadn't intercepted over 50% of the N. Vietnamese troops and supplies. If you truly loved your relatives, you should be grateful for the Hmongs' sacrifices.

The Vietnam War and subsequent genocidal actions shattered so many lives and families. Every Hmong family in the United States was violated in some way, often with the tragic loss of loved ones. I have heard so many stories of sorrow and loss, the stories of desperate parents trying to hide their children from murderous soldiers, sometimes overdosing their children with opium to keep them from crying and revealing their hiding place. I have heard stories of trying to cross the Mekong River and having loved ones drown or be shot. For those who escaped torture and death in Laos, there would yet be tales of gruesome life in neglected refugee camps, tales of families split up by careless bureaucrats, and tales of shock and confusion as penniless refugees are dropped off in the strange world of America, where the citizens have no idea who the Hmong people were and sometimes viewed them as enemies. I can understand the sorrow of the old people, who sometimes stare out the window and seem immobilized by the tragedy of their loss, yearning for the once peaceful and happy days in the hills of northern Laos. But I cannot understand the ignorance of many Americans, who have not bothered to learn who these people are and why they deserved to be brought to the United States. They bled and died for us. They saved hundreds of American lives at great loss to them and their families.

We used the Hmong people and their freedom-loving courage, and suddenly abandoned them to genocidal tyrants, keeping their sacrifices largely secret from the American people. Ours is a debt of gratitude that remains incompletely expressed. And for today's Hmong-Americans, yours is a legacy of courage and valor that I hope will inspire you to stand for the highest of human values and bring further honor to your people and your ancestors.

# Lao Veterans of America (LaoVeterans.com)

"We cannot let Laos fall to the Communists even if we have to fight."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, December 31, 1960.

"About 9,000 Hmong tribesmen have been equipped for guerrilla operations, which they are now conducting with considerable effectiveness in Communist-dominated territory in Laos... As men leave food-raising duties to serve as guerrillas, a problem is growing over the care and feeding of non-combat Hmong. The CIA has given some rice and clothing to relieve this problem."

Memo from Brig. General Edward Lansdale, July 1961. Published in the Pentagon Papers.

"The problem of Laos is the refusal of the communist forces to honor the Geneva Accords."

President Lyndon B. Johnson, January 18, 1965.

"A measure of the heroism and effectiveness of the Hmong struggle can be seen in the fact that the North Vietnamese forces arrayed against them increased over the years from the original 7,000 to 70,000, including several of North Vietnam's best divisions. The battle became increasingly conventional."

Ambassador William Colby, former CIA Director, Congressional Testimony before the House Subcommittee on Asia and The Pacific, April 26, 1994.

"We have been providing logistical support and some training for the neutralist government in order to avoid Laos falling under communist domination. As far as American manpower in Laos is concerned, no American manpower is there at the present time on a combat basis... Laos relates very much to Vietnam because the Ho Chi Minh Trail runs through Laos. It is necessary, under those circumstances, that the United States takes cognizance of that, and we do have air reconnaissance. We do have, perhaps, some other activities. I won't discuss those other activities at this time."

President Richard Nixon, (Press conference comments) September 26, 1960.

The most conservative estimated number that during the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, 35,000 to 40,000 young brave Hmong were killed in combat; 50,000 to 58,000 were wounded; and 2,500 to 3,000 were missing in action. When the United States withdrew from Southeast Asia, genocide followed the Hmong--thousands of

Hmong were murdered by the communists when they tried to flee to neighboring Thailand.

"Everyone of them that died (Hmong), that was an American back home that didn't die, or one that was injured that wasn't injured. Somebody in nearly every Hmong family was either fighting or died from fighting... They became refugees because we (United States Government)... encouraged them to fight for us. I promised them myself: "Have no fear, we will take care of you".

Edgar Buell, senior U.S.AID/CIA official working with the Hmong "Secret Army" During the war years, quoted on 60 minutes, March 4, 1979.

Some source said: There was about 100,000 North Vietnamese soldiers fought in Laos: 70,000 of this number including several of North Vietnam's best divisions fought directly against the Hmong soldiers, and about 30,000 were fighting with the U.S. SOF and Hmong soldiers along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

About April 1975, the United States withdrew its troops from Indochina. During May 12-14, 1975, the CIA/Air America evacuated about 2,500 Hmong officers and their families from the secret base at Long Cheng in Laos (Headquarters of General Vang Pao--the combined base for the Hmong, CIA, Air America, and U.S. Air Force "Ravens"). They were evacuated to the U.S. former air base in Namphong, Khonekene, Thailand. The rest of the Secret Army (Special Guerrilla Units {SGU} and other special units) who were left behind began to walk to the Mekong River and attempted to cross into Thailand. The Communists killed thousands of these soldiers and their families. During the evacuation, and in subsequent years, thousands of Hmong and Lao veterans and their families were killed by communists North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao security forces. Thousand died of starvation as they fled toward the security and freedom on the other shore of the Mekong River. Thousands drowned in the river before reaching the Thai border. Even today, despite official denials at senior levels of the Pathet Lao government, the communist regime in Laos continues to persecute and discriminate against Hmong because of their role in the U.S. Secret Army.

The Vietnam War ended in 1975, genocide and persecution of the Hmong followed. This Stalinist regime arrested King, Queen, Crown Prince, members of the Royal Lao Family, and its high ranking officials in the Royal Lao government about 46,000 to put in the re-education camps, and also used chemical warfare "Yellow Rain" to eliminate members of the U.S. Secret Army and their families. From the period of 1975 to 1980, the Stalinist regime in Laos killed about 30,000 Hmong men, women, and children in the former 2nd Military Region of Laos where the major of the CIA operations took place, especially, around the foothills of Phou Bia Mountain. This is the Lao People's Democratic Republic's (LPDR) "ethnic cleansing" policy against the Hmong people. Today, LPDR government still continues systematically to persecute the Hmong people in that part of the world.

In addition to a devastating loss of life, the war resulted in a loss of our homeland, and we had to become countryless people and political refugees in a third country such as America, Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, France, Japan, and Newzeland.

Later in 1975, the Hmong and Lao soldiers and families began to take refuges in the United States. Their exodus continues to the present period. Many of those are still separated from their families and are finding reunification difficult. This, they have organized "Lao Veterans of America" as a Non-Profit organization. Its home office is in Fresno, California where it will be a central communication to all Lao veterans, which scattered through out the world.

The Lao Veterans of America, Inc. (LVA), like the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), represents veterans who served the United States honorably. It is among the largest veteran organizations of its kind in the United States and includes tens of thousands of Hmong and Lao veterans and their families who played a key role in the U.S. covert war in Laos during the Vietnam War. It is a non-profit corporation--with chapters organized throughout the United States in states such as Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. We also have members in Australia, Canada, and France. The LVA membership includes significant numbers of women who served in combat and combat support roles.

Members of Congress as well as current and former U.S. military and intelligence officials have honored the LVA and its work. Members of the LVA have been awarded the U.S. Vietnam Service, Vietnam Veterans National, Vietnam Campaign, and Purple Heart medals. The LVA has received bipartisan support on Capitol Hill for its efforts. It has been singled out with Congressional awards and citations as well as being honored in Congressional Records statements and in Congressional letters. The LVA also has received state and community recognition. California, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have recently passed a Joint Resolution and Proclamation in recognition of Hmong and Lao veterans and asked the Congress and President of the United States to grant those veterans and their families full U.S. citizenship. During recent years, former CIA Director William Colby and Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt have also cited the Hmong and Lao veterans--and their leadership--in Congressional Hearing testimony. LVA also have over twenty (20) U.S. veterans group writing letters of support to the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act.

In recent years, with the declassification of secret information in U.S. intelligence and Defense Department files, military histories of the Hmong veteran's service have finally appeared in books. Examples of such books are: *Tragic Mountains, The Americans and the Secret Wars for Laos, 1942-1992*, by Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt; *War in Laos 1954-1975*, by Kenneth Conboy; *The War in Laos 1960-75*, by Kenneth Conboy; *Shadow War: The CIA's Secret War in Laos*, by Kenneth Conboy and James Morrison; and *Across the Mekong*, by Charles O. Davis.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- ◆ A **\$15.00** personalized plate fee is required EACH year in addition to the regular annual registration fee.
- ◆ A \$15.00 issuance fee is required when nonpersonalized Lao Veteran plates are issued.
- ◆ Check which option you would like us to follow, if your request is not available.
- ◆ No refund or adjustment will be made for a change of choice or spacing after the plate has been ordered, or if the application is incorrectly or unclearly completed.
- ◆ WDOT may refuse to issue OR may recall after issuance, a request that is misleading or may be offensive to good taste or decency.
- ◆ If you are requesting a plate which the current owner no longer wants, please have the former owner complete the "Release of Personalized Plates" inside this application.
- ◆ Personalized plates will be mailed 4-6 weeks after you receive your Certificate of Registration.
- ◆ To legally operate your vehicle, you must display license plates within 2 business days of purchase. If you do not have current plates, apply to a DMV Customer Service Center or an agent authorized by DMV to obtain a temporary plate while your plate order is processed. An agent may charge a \$3 plate fee and / or may charge a \$5 service fee.
- ◆ If you have questions:
  - \* Call **608-266-3041**;
  - \* E-mail: [special-plates.dmv@dot.state.wi.us](mailto:special-plates.dmv@dot.state.wi.us)

The Lao Veteran license plates recognize the sacrifices of Hmong and Laotian veterans who served on behalf of the United States of America in the Vietnam War.



ADA - The Wisconsin Department of Transportation complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act



# Lao Veterans of America License Plate Application

**Applicants must contact the Lao Veterans of America, Inc., for a Veteran's Certificate and license plate decals before applying for license plates.**

Lao Veterans license plates are available for the following vehicles that are owned or leased by certified members of Lao Veterans of America, Inc.:

- ◆ Automobiles
- ◆ Motor Homes (annual registration only)
- ◆ Motor Trucks
  - ◆ 4,500, 6,000 or 8,000 pound gross weight including dual purpose farm and dual purpose motor home
  - ◆ 12,000 pound gross weight farm truck

# LAO VETERAN LICENSE PLATE APPLICATION

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

MV2919 5/2006 s.341.14(6r) Wis. Stats.

I would like nonpersonalized Lao Veteran plates.

I would like personalized Lao Veteran plates

**Note:** If all personalized choices have been used:

I would like nonpersonalized plates

Call me at \_\_\_\_\_  
between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

E-mail me at \_\_\_\_\_

1st Choice						Meaning
2nd Choice						Meaning
3rd Choice						Meaning
Current License Plate #	Year - Make	Body Type	Vehicle Identification #			
Owner(s)/Lessee Name (Last, First, M.I.) - Print					Social Security # or Driver License # or (If company owned) FEIN #	
Street Address					Telephone # where you may be reached 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	
City	State	ZIP Code				

The social security number is used for identification purposes.

(Applicant Signature)

## Release of Personalized Plates

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- I authorize the reissuance of my personalized license plate number specified to applicant shown above.
- I allow the Department of Transportation to reissue my current personalized plate after it is replaced with a different plate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Owner Releasing Plate)

New Owner - please check one:

- Have plates in good condition in my possession
- Need new plates issued

Note: No credit of registration fees or personalized plate fee from former owner is allowed.

## Release of Nonexempt Information

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation uses the information on this form to issue personalized license plates. Under open records laws, the Department must make nonexempt information available upon request. Do you want your name withheld from mailing lists of 10 or more individuals?

- Yes. This will remove your name from marketing lists.
- No.

## How To Apply

- Contact the Lao Veterans of America Inc. for license plate decals and an **Application for Hmong/Lao Veteran License Plate in WI and Service Certificate**. For more information, contact: Lao Veterans of America, Inc., PO Box 331, Menomonie, WI 54751 Telephone: 715-235-7934
- Complete this form when you receive your certificate and decals for the Lao Veteran license plate. Check options on application. If you want nonpersonalized plates, mark application and omit steps 3-6. If you want personalized plates choose 1-6 characters.
- If you choose 6 characters, no spaces are allowed.

L A O V E T

If you choose 5 characters or less, you may request up to 2 spaces between any of the characters. Indicate spaces with diagonal lines.

U S / L A O

- Use capital letters or numbers. The letter O and the number zero are the same. The following are not acceptable: small letters, symbols, signs, hyphens, apostrophes, etc.

Carefully distinguish between:

- Letters L or I and the Number 1
- Letter S and Number 5
- Letter G and Number 6
- Letter Z and Number 2
- Letter B and Number 8
- Letter U and Letter V

- Give meaning of request, i.e., what does this represent?
- If you have personalized plates that you would like to replace with the same message on Lao Veteran plates, you may do so if your message is 6 characters or less. (Other restrictions may apply; call if you have questions.)
- If the vehicle that you wish to register with Lao Veteran plates is already titled in your name, send:
  - \* A copy of your Certificate of Registration OR complete the vehicle description on the application above;
  - \* \$15.00 issuance or personalized plate fee, plus the annual registration fee if the current plates expire within the next 3 months.
- If the vehicle is NOT titled in your name, send:
  - \* A completed title application (MV1 or MV11);
  - \* All required fees, including annual registration fee;
  - \* Additional \$15.00 issuance or personalized plate fee.
- Send this application with 2 items from Lao Veterans of America,
  - \* Signed Application for Hmong/Lao Veteran License Plate in WI, and;
  - \* A photocopy of Service Certificate (Not ID card).
- Make check or money order payable to:
  - Registration Fee Trust.**
- Mail all required items to:
  - Wisconsin Department of Transportation
  - Special Plates Unit
  - PO Box 7911
  - Madison, WI 53707-7911

2/7/11

Representative Petersen:

My name Steven Yang, President of Hmong Lions Club of Alaska, I have see the email on First Hmong Lions Club@hotmail.com. I support of your representative Pete Petersen to submit a bill to introduced HB92 created special license plate to help Hmong Veterans which has been served CIA during Vietnam War. We will discuss with our veteran group, we may able to do some thing to help you to working with the commemorating Hmong Veterans. If you have any question please let me know or call me at 907-230-2173 or we may meet to discuss more information you needs. Thank you for input and support.

Steven Yang,  
President of Hmong Lions Club

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version HB 092  
 () Publish Date \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name) HB092-DOA-DMV-02-11-11 Dept. Affected Administration  
 Title Lao Veteran Registration Plates Appropriation Motor Vehicles  
 Allocation Motor Vehicles  
 Sponsor Reps. Petersen and Gruenberg  
 Requester House State Affairs OMB Component Number 2348

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information					
		FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>							
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants							
Miscellaneous							
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>							
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (please identify)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost 0.0

**POSITIONS**

	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Not applicable, initial version

Prepared by Whitney Brewster  
 Division Motor Vehicles  
 Approved by John Cramer, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Administration

Phone 907-269-5574  
 Date/Time 2/11/11 3:00 PM  
 Date 2/11/2011

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 092

**Analysis**

This bill has no fiscal impact on the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

# Alaska State Legislature

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Representative\_Pete\_Petersen@legis.state.ak.us



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## Representative Pete Petersen Serving Northeast Anchorage and Muldoon

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 2011

TO: Rep. Bob Lynn, Chair  
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Rep. Pete Petersen

RE: Hearing Request for House Bill 92, Lao Veteran Registration Plates

I respectfully request that House Bill 92, relating to Lao Veteran Registration Plates, be scheduled for a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee. Please feel free to contact me, or my aide David Bremer, with questions or thoughts at 465-4939.

Attached you will find a background packet for House Bill 92. This includes the current version of the bill, a sponsor's statement, a sectional analysis, and backup materials.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Told David on 1/27  
Tentative for either  
2/10 or 2/15  
Bob wants to hear our  
License plate bill 1st*