



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17-039

BY SENATOR(S) Kerr and Crowder, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Court, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham;
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Lebsack and Carver, Arndt, Becker J., Becker K., Beckman, Benavidez, Bridges, Buck, Buckner, Catlin, Coleman, Covarrubias, Danielson, Esgar, Everett, Exum, Foote, Garnett, Ginal, Gray, Hamner, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Kennedy, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Lawrence, Lee, Leonard, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, Lundeen, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mitsch Bush, Navarro, Neville P., Nordberg, Pabon, Pettersen, Rankin, Ransom, Rosenthal, Saine, Salazar, Sias, Singer, Thurlow, Valdez, Van Winkle, Weissman, Willett, Williams D., Wilson, Winter, Wist, Young, Duran.

CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE OF
 MILITARY VETERANS IN COLORADO WHO SERVED IN THE
 VIETNAM WAR AND TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH
 ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR.

WHEREAS, While the Vietnam War had started within the country by 1955, direct United States military involvement in the Vietnam War began in the Republic of South Vietnam in 1961 and continued until 1975, involving North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with U.S. Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, During this period, more than three million American soldiers, both volunteers and draftees, served tours of duty in Vietnam, with a total of more than 9,000,000 active duty military personnel, in what was an extremely long, difficult, and complex war; and

WHEREAS, More than 58,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces,

including 611 Coloradans, lost their lives in Vietnam, and more than 300,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces were wounded; and

WHEREAS, In addition, more than 2,500 members of the U.S. Armed Forces were listed as "Prisoners of War" (POWs) or "Missing In Action", including 41 Coloradans, 24 of whom remain unaccounted for; and

WHEREAS, According to the Denver Regional Office of the federal Department of Veteran Affairs, as of 2014, an estimated seven million members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served their country during the Vietnam era are still alive today, including more than 127,000 Coloradans; and

WHEREAS, On January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed, which required the release of all U.S. POWs held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all U.S. Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam by March 30, 1973; and

WHEREAS, On April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese regular forces captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, marking the official end of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, As American military personnel completed their tours of duty in Vietnam, they returned home to a citizenry that was divided in its opinions of that conflict, and many people failed to distinguish their political and philosophical viewpoints toward the war from the individuals who had served; and

WHEREAS, In the intervening decades, our citizenry has come to understand more clearly the importance of recognizing and respecting the service of military veterans, regardless of any other opinions or issues; and

WHEREAS, The need for a formal recognition of the return of veterans from the Vietnam War is as important now as ever, not only for those veterans who served but for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, April 30, 2017, marks the 42nd anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, the 110th Congress incorporated language in H.R. 4986, which would become law as the 2008 federal "National Defense Authorization Act", that authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War to honor veterans of the war and to highlight the service of the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration began with the Presidential inaugural event at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012, and concludes on Veterans Day, November 11, 2025, by Presidential proclamation; and

WHEREAS, For the purposes of this Commemoration, November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, is the time period recognized to honor the service and sacrifice of those who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The Commemoration does not distinguish between veterans who served in-country or in-theater or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby:

(1) Honor the service and sacrifices of the military veterans in Colorado who served in Vietnam, including the South Vietnamese soldiers who served alongside American troops;

(2) Recognize the particular challenges faced by many of these veterans, both while serving in Vietnam and upon returning home;

(3) Express our appreciation for their fortitude, their activism on behalf of fellow veterans, their steadfast patriotism, and the many accomplishments, contributions, and leadership that these veterans have

made to their families, community organizations, and the state; and

(4) Encourage all Coloradans to remember the sacrifices made by Vietnam veterans on April 30, 2017, the 42nd anniversary marking the end of the Vietnam War, and to continue to participate in the ongoing 50th anniversary Commemoration activities to pay solemn tribute to, and to never forget, the veterans of the Vietnam War.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; the United Veterans' Committee of Colorado; Project Sanctuary; the United States Vietnamese American Volunteers Alliance; the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump; the honorable John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado; and the Colorado Congressional delegation.

Kevin J. Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
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