



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20-011

BY SENATOR(S) Donovan and Crowder, Sonnenberg, Bridges, Cooke, Coram, Danielson, Fenberg, Fields, Foote, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hisey, Holbert, Lee, Lundeen, Marble, Moreno, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Smallwood, Story, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger, Garcia;

also REPRESENTATIVE(S) McLachlan and Williams D., Arndt, Baisley, Benavidez, Bird, Buck, Buckner, Buentello, Caraveo, Carver, Catlin, Coleman, Cutter, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Garnett, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Herod, Holtorf, Humphrey, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Kennedy, Kipp, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Larson, Liston, Lontine, McCluskie, McKean, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Neville, Pelton, Ransom, Roberts, Saine, Sandridge, Singer, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Winkle, Weissman, Wilson, Woodrow, Young, Becker.

CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE OF MILITARY VETERANS IN COLORADO WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR.

WHEREAS, United States military involvement in the Vietnam War began in the Republic of South Vietnam in the 1950s and continued until 1975, involving 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; and

WHEREAS, During this period, more than 2,700,000 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 58,220 members of the United States Armed Forces, including 623 Coloradans, lost their lives in Vietnam, and more than 300,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded; and

WHEREAS, In addition, more than 2,500 members of the United States 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 7,000,000 members of the United States Armed Forces who served their country during the Vietnam era are still alive today, including more than 120,000 Coloradans; and

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

WHEREAS, The United States 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, 2020, marks the 45th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-second 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;

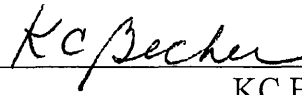
(3) Express our appreciation for their fortitude; their activism on behalf of fellow veterans; their steadfast patriotism; their many accomplishments and contributions; and the leadership they have shown to their families, community organizations, and the state; and

(4) Encourage all Coloradans to remember the sacrifices made by Vietnam veterans.

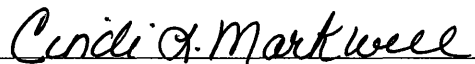
Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; the United Veterans' Committee of Colorado; Project Sanctuary; the United States Vietnamese American Volunteers Alliance; the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump;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



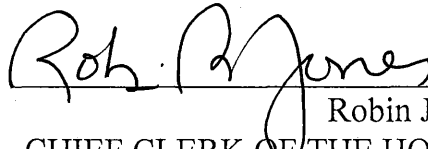
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