

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

SR 39

4
5 By: Senator Laverty
6 By: Representative King

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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF A WELCOME HOME
10 VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF A
15 WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.

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18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
19 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of Vietnam from
22 1961 to 1975, and involved Vietnam People's Army and Viet Cong guerrilla
23 forces in armed conflict with United States Armed Forces and the Army of the
24 Republic of Vietnam; and

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26 WHEREAS, the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam
27 because the United States government wanted to provide direct military
28 support to the government of South Vietnam to defend itself against the
29 growing Communist threat from North Vietnam; and

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31 WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an
32 advisory role to the government of the Republic of Vietnam in 1961; and

33
34 WHEREAS, as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4,
35 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public
36 Law 88-408), on August 7, 1964, which provided the authority to the President



1 of the United States to prosecute the war against North Vietnam; and

2
3 WHEREAS, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units
4 arrived in Vietnam; and

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6 WHEREAS, by the end of 1965, there were one hundred eighty-four
7 thousand (184,000) United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of
8 approximately five hundred forty-three thousand (543,000) troops was reached;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, on January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed,
12 which required the release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in
13 North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South
14 Vietnam; and

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

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20 WHEREAS, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese regular forces captured
21 Saigon, the capitol of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under
22 Communist control; and

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24 WHEREAS, more than fifty-eight thousand (58,000) members of the United
25 States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than three hundred
26 thousand (300,000) members of the Armed Forces were wounded; and

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28 WHEREAS, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the
29 District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United States Armed
30 Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the
33 people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of
34 veterans to wait too long for the United States public to acknowledge and
35 honor the efforts and services of such veterans; and

36

1 WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely
2 and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often
3 wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made by four (4) presidential
4 administrations in the United States; and

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6 WHEREAS, the establishment of a `Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day`
7 would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed
8 Forces who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the
9 Vietnam War; and

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11 WHEREAS, March 30, 2011, would be an appropriate day to establish as
12 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day,

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14 NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
16 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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18 THAT the Senate honors and recognizes the contributions of veterans who
19 served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam during war and during
20 peace and proclaims March 30, 2011, as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day; and

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22 THAT the Senate encourages the people of Arkansas to observe Welcome
23 Home Vietnam Veterans Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that
24 provide the appreciation Vietnam War veterans deserve but did not receive
25 upon returning home from the war; to demonstrate the resolve that never again
26 shall the state disregard and denigrate a generation of veterans; to promote
27 awareness of the faithful service and contributions of such veterans during
28 their military service as well as to their communities since returning home;
29 to promote awareness of the importance of entire communities empowering
30 veterans and the families of veterans to readjust to civilian life after
31 military service; and to promote opportunities for such veterans to assist
32 younger veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in
33 rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and unseen, and to support the
34 reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life.

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate

1 copy shall be provided to the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Organization
2 by the Secretary of the Senate.

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