

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2018

HR 1016

4
5 By: Representative Pitsch

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 PROCLAIMING MARCH 29, 2018, AS VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.

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11 **Subtitle**

12 PROCLAIMING MARCH 29, 2018, AS VIETNAM
13 VETERANS DAY.

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16 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from
17 1956 to 1975, and involved regular forces of the People's Army of Vietnam and
18 guerrilla forces of the National Liberation Front ("Viet Cong") in armed
19 conflict with United States Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of
20 Vietnam; and

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22 WHEREAS, United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because
23 the United States Government wanted to provide direct military support to the
24 Government of the Republic of Vietnam ("South Vietnam") to defend itself
25 against the growing Communist threat from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam
26 ("North Vietnam"); and

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28 WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an
29 advisory role to South Vietnam in 1961; and

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31 WHEREAS, as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4,
32 1964, the United States Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin
33 Resolution, Pub. L. No. 88-408, on August 7, 1964, which provided the
34 authority to the President of the United States to prosecute the war against
35 North Vietnam; and



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

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4 WHEREAS, by the end of 1965, there were one hundred eighty thousand
5 (180,000) United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of
6 approximately five hundred forty-three thousand (543,000) military personnel
7 was reached; and

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

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14 WHEREAS, on March 29, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed
15 the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;
16 and

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

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

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

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

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36 WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely

1 and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often
2 wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made by four (4) presidential
3 administrations in the United States; and
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5 WHEREAS, the establishment of a Vietnam Veterans Day would be an
6 appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who
7 served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, March 29, 2018, would be an appropriate day to establish as
11 Vietnam Veterans Day,
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13 NOW THEREFORE,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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17 THAT the House of Representatives honor and recognize the service and
18 the sacrifice of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in
19 Vietnam during war and during peace and proclaim March 29, 2018, as Vietnam
20 Veterans Day.
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