

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2018
4
5 By: Senator B. Sample

SR 13

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7 **SENATE 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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17 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from
18 1956 to 1975, and involved regular forces of the People's Army of Vietnam and
19 guerrilla forces of the National Liberation Front ("Viet Cong") in armed
20 conflict with United States Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of
21 Vietnam; and
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23 WHEREAS, the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam
24 because the United States Government wanted to provide direct military
25 support to the Government of the Republic of Vietnam ("South Vietnam") to
26 defend itself against the growing Communist threat from the Democratic
27 Republic of Vietnam ("North Vietnam"); and
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29 WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an
30 advisory role to South Vietnam in 1961; and
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32 WHEREAS, as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4,
33 1964, the United States Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin
34 Resolution, Pub. L. No. 88-408, on August 7, 1964, which provided the
35 authority to the President of the United States to prosecute the war against
36 North Vietnam; and



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2 WHEREAS, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units
3 arrived in South Vietnam; and
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5 WHEREAS, by the end of 1965, there were one hundred eighty thousand
6 (180,000) United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of
7 approximately five hundred forty-three thousand (543,000) military personnel
8 was reached; and
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10 WHEREAS, on January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed,
11 which required the release of all United States prisoners of war held in
12 North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South
13 Vietnam; and
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15 WHEREAS, on March 29, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed
16 the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese forces captured Saigon,
20 the capitol of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under
21 Communist control; and
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23 WHEREAS, more than fifty-eight thousand (58,000) members of the United
24 States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than three hundred
25 thousand (300,000) members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded;
26 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
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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 Vietnam Veterans Day would be an
7 appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who
8 served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, March 29, 2018, would be an appropriate day to establish as
12 Vietnam Veterans Day,

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14 NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST 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 29, 2018, as Vietnam Veterans Day.

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