

By Senator Saunders

37-04483A-08

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing Vietnam War Veterans.

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War has been documented as the longest United States military conflict in history, lasting 30 years, with United States military personnel involvement from 1960 to 1975, and

WHEREAS, the soldiers of the United States 9th Marine Regiment landed in Da Nang in March 1965 to protect United States air bases in South Vietnam, and direct United States military troop involvement commenced in an effort to prevent the collapse of the government of South Vietnam, and

WHEREAS, the United States government committed 2.59 million Air Force, Navy, Marine, and Army personnel to serve in the Vietnam War over a 10-year period with more than 58,000 brave soldiers giving their lives in combat and more than 300,000 soldiers wounded, more than half of those receiving very serious injuries, and

WHEREAS, the average age of those fighting for democracy and freedom in the Vietnam War was 19 years of age - younger than those who served in World War II and the Korean War, and

WHEREAS, the United States government under President Richard M. Nixon initiated United States troop withdrawal in 1969 and on January 27, 1973, the United States, South Vietnam, the PRG, and North Vietnam signed the Treaty of Paris, with the final withdrawal of all troops from Vietnam taking place on March 29, 1973, and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. was dedicated in 1982 to commemorate the United States soldiers who

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30 | died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam, with more
31 | than 58,000 names etched in a black granite V-shaped wall that
32 | has become a site of pilgrimage for veterans and civilians alike,
33 | and

34 | WHEREAS, the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Southwest Florida
35 | will offer a living testament of democracy and freedom for all
36 | who visit it, NOW, THEREFORE,

37 |

38 | Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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40 | That the members of the Florida Senate pay tribute to the
41 | tremendous sacrifices of every veteran, living and deceased, who
42 | bravely served this country during the Vietnam War, and affirm
43 | that their sacrifices and those of their loved ones will never be
44 | forgotten.

45 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
46 | the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Vietnam Veterans
47 | of America Chapter 594 as a tangible token of the sentiments of
48 | the Florida Senate.