

HM 845

2011

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to initiate and support nationwide efforts to
4 commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end of the United
5 States' involvement in the Vietnam War and demonstrate the
6 nation's appreciation for the honorable service and
7 sacrifice of Vietnam Veterans.

8
9 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was a Cold War military conflict
10 that occurred in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from November 1,
11 1955, until the United States Congress passed the Case-Church
12 amendment in 1973 which prohibited the further use of American
13 military forces in the conflict, and

14 WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the
15 United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, and

16 WHEREAS, there are an estimated 650,000 Vietnam veterans in
17 the State of Florida, and

18 WHEREAS, because of the intense public opposition to the
19 war that existed at the time, members of the United States Armed
20 Services returned home to an unprecedented lack of formal
21 positive recognition of the honorable service they had provided
22 on behalf of their country and the tremendous sacrifices they
23 had made, and

24 WHEREAS, the lack of formal "Welcome Home" parades and
25 other traditional celebrations for returning soldiers that were
26 common in previous military conflicts in which the United States
27 was engaged, coupled with verbal and sometimes physical abuse,
28 resulted in great disillusionment, undeserved indignity, and

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29 | often great suffering and anguish among returning Vietnam
30 | veterans, and

31 | WHEREAS, many of these brave men and women are now reaching
32 | an advanced age, and

33 | WHEREAS, the importance of the commemoration of the 40th
34 | anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in the
35 | Vietnam War and the opportunity that such an historical
36 | anniversary presents to attempt to rectify past injustices and
37 | ingratitude cannot be stressed strongly enough, and

38 | WHEREAS, an attempt to express Florida's profound
39 | appreciation for the honorable service of Vietnam veterans is
40 | evidenced by House Bill 829, introduced during the 2011 Regular
41 | Session of the Florida Legislature, and

42 | WHEREAS, the expressed intent of House Bill 829 is to
43 | provide legislative direction and support for recognition of the
44 | importance of the 40th anniversary of the end of the United
45 | States' involvement in the Vietnam War, and

46 | WHEREAS, the legislation endeavors to ensure the
47 | appropriate commemoration of this anniversary and the proper
48 | demonstration of appreciation for the honorable service and
49 | tremendous sacrifices of veterans who served in the United
50 | States Armed Services during the Vietnam Era, and

51 | WHEREAS, the legislation includes requirements for the
52 | Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to administratively
53 | promote and support the efforts of counties, municipalities, and
54 | bona fide veterans' organizations that voluntarily hold special
55 | community events on March 25, 2013, commemorating the 40th
56 | anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in the

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57 Vietnam War, and events commemorating Vietnam Veterans' Day in
 58 years subsequent to 2013, and

59 WHEREAS, the legislation provides for the solicitation of
 60 private donations to fund grants to counties, municipalities,
 61 and bona fide veterans' organizations that voluntarily hold
 62 commemorative activities, and

63 WHEREAS, the legislation also provides for the creation of
 64 a Vietnam Veterans specialty license plate, fees from the sale
 65 of which will be used to fund grants for activities related to
 66 the initial observance of "Vietnam Veterans' Day," on March 25,
 67 2013, and for expenditures related to the annual observance of
 68 Vietnam Veterans' Day in years subsequent to 2013, and

69 WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the United
 70 States Congress initiate and support similar efforts at the
 71 national level to mark this historic anniversary and to attempt
 72 to redress the lack of appropriate recognition and undeserved
 73 ingratitude that so many of these brave servicemen and
 74 servicewomen received upon returning home, and

75 WHEREAS, as part of a national effort, it is also requested
 76 that the United States Congress authorize the minting of a 40th
 77 anniversary commemorative medal expressing the nation's
 78 appreciation for the honorable service of Vietnam veterans, NOW,
 79 THEREFORE,

80
 81 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

82
 83 That the Congress of the United States is urged to initiate
 84 and support nationwide efforts to commemorate the 40th

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85 anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in the
86 Vietnam War and demonstrate the nation's appreciation for the
87 honorable service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
89 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
90 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
91 United States House of Representatives, to each member of the
92 Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and to the
93 legislative governing body of each of the other 49 states of the
94 United States.