

CS/HM 205

2012

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to initiate and support nationwide
4 efforts to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end
5 of the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War
6 and demonstrate the nation's appreciation for the
7 honorable service and 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, as of July 2011, the Florida Department of
17 Veterans' Affairs estimated that there were approximately
18 454,000 Vietnam era veterans living in the State of Florida, and

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

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

CS/HM 205

2012

29 | resulted in great disillusionment, undeserved indignity, and
30 | often great suffering and anguish among returning Vietnam
31 | veterans, and

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

34 | WHEREAS, March 30, 2013, will mark the official date of the
35 | 40th anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in
36 | the Vietnam War, and

37 | WHEREAS, on that date this nation will be presented with a
38 | unique and historic opportunity to hold appropriate observances
39 | and long-overdue recognition ceremonies that will honor our
40 | nation's aging Vietnam War veterans and that may finally provide
41 | these brave men and women a fitting expression of gratitude and
42 | a measure of healing and official closure that has been denied
43 | them for decades and that they so greatly deserve, and

44 | WHEREAS, the importance of the commemoration of the 40th
45 | anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in the
46 | Vietnam War and the opportunity that such an historical
47 | anniversary presents to attempt to rectify past injustices and
48 | ingratitude cannot be stressed strongly enough, and

49 | WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the United
50 | States Congress initiate and support efforts at the national
51 | level to mark this historic anniversary and to attempt to
52 | redress the lack of appropriate recognition and undeserved
53 | ingratitude that so many of these brave servicemen and
54 | servicewomen received upon returning home, and

55 | WHEREAS, as part of a national effort, it is also requested
56 | that the United States Congress authorize the minting of a 40th

CS/HM 205

2012

57 anniversary commemorative medal expressing the nation's
58 appreciation for the honorable service of Vietnam veterans, and
59 WHEREAS, for this historic opportunity to be fully
60 realized, the United States Congress should act promptly and
61 decisively, NOW, THEREFORE,

62

63 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

64

65 That the Congress of the United States is urged to initiate
66 and support nationwide efforts to commemorate the 40th
67 anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in the
68 Vietnam War and demonstrate the nation's appreciation for the
69 honorable service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of such national
71 effort, the United States Congress is requested to authorize the
72 minting of a 40th anniversary commemorative medal expressing the
73 nation's appreciation for the honorable service of Vietnam
74 veterans.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
76 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
77 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
78 United States House of Representatives, to each member of the
79 Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and to the
80 legislative governing body of each of the other 49 states of the
81 United States.