

HR 9025

2013

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing the honorable service and
3 sacrifice of Florida's Vietnam veterans.

4
5 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War took place in Vietnam, Laos, and
6 Cambodia from November 1, 1955, until the United States Congress
7 passed the Case-Church amendment in 1973, which prohibited the
8 further use of American military forces in the area, and

9 WHEREAS, because of the intense public opposition to the
10 war that existed at the time, members of the United States Armed
11 Services returned home to an unprecedented lack of formal
12 positive recognition of their honorable service and the
13 tremendous sacrifices they had made on behalf of their country,
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the lack of formal "Welcome Home" parades and
16 other traditional celebrations that were common for United
17 States soldiers returning from previous military engagements,
18 coupled with verbal and sometimes physical abuse, resulted in
19 great disillusionment, undeserved indignity, and often great
20 suffering and anguish among returning Vietnam veterans, and

21 WHEREAS, as of July 2011, the Department of Veterans'
22 Affairs estimated that there were approximately 454,000 Vietnam-
23 era veterans living in the State of Florida, and

24 WHEREAS, as March 30, 2013, marks the official date of the
25 40th anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in
26 the Vietnam War, this state is presented with a unique and
27 historic opportunity to hold appropriate observances and long-
28 overdue recognition ceremonies that will honor Florida's aging

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29 Vietnam War veterans and that may finally provide these brave
30 men and women a fitting expression of gratitude and a measure of
31 healing and official closure that has been denied them for
32 decades and that they so greatly deserve, and

33 WHEREAS, the importance of the commemoration of this
34 historic anniversary and the opportunity to attempt to rectify
35 past injustices and ingratitude cannot be stressed strongly
36 enough, and

37 WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the House of
38 Representatives encourage and support efforts within the state
39 to mark this historic anniversary and to attempt to redress the
40 lack of appropriate recognition and undeserved ingratitude that
41 so many of these brave servicemen and servicewomen received upon
42 returning home, NOW, THEREFORE,

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44 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
45 Florida:

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47 That in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the end of
48 the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War on March 30,
49 2013, Florida's state agencies and officials, counties,
50 municipalities, and community organizations are called upon and
51 encouraged to publicly acknowledge and demonstrate the state's
52 appreciation for the honorable service and sacrifice of its
53 Vietnam veterans through such activities as issuing appropriate
54 resolutions and holding or providing support for special
55 recognitions throughout the year.