

HR 9055

2014

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating March 30, 2014, as "Welcome  
3 Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in the State of Florida.

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, the United States became involved in Vietnam,  
10 first in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese, because  
11 policymakers in the United States believed that if South Vietnam  
12 fell to a communist government, communism would spread  
13 throughout the rest of Southeast Asia, and

14 WHEREAS, on August 7, 1964, the United States Congress  
15 overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which  
16 effectively handed over the war-making powers to President  
17 Lyndon Johnson until such time as peace and security had  
18 returned to Vietnam, and

19 WHEREAS, in 1965, there were 184,000 United States troops  
20 in Vietnam, and by 1969, that number had grown to more than  
21 500,000 troops, and

22 WHEREAS, on January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords was  
23 signed, which required the release of all United States  
24 prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all

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25 United States Armed Forces, and on March 30, 1973, the United  
26 States completed the withdrawal of combat troops, and

27 WHEREAS, during the course of the war, more than 58,000  
28 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in  
29 Vietnam and more than 300,000 were wounded, and

30 WHEREAS, because of the intense public opposition to the  
31 war that existed at the time, members of the United States Armed  
32 Forces returned home to an unprecedented lack of formal positive  
33 recognition of their honorable service and the tremendous  
34 sacrifices they had made on behalf of their country, and

35 WHEREAS, the lack of formal "Welcome Home" parades and  
36 other traditional celebrations that were common for United  
37 States soldiers returning from previous military engagements,  
38 coupled with verbal and sometimes physical abuse, resulted in  
39 great disillusionment, undeserved indignity, and often great  
40 suffering and anguish among returning Vietnam veterans, and

41 WHEREAS, it was not until 1982 that the Vietnam Veterans  
42 Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to  
43 commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who  
44 died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam, and

45 WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the House of  
46 Representatives encourage and support efforts within the state  
47 to redress the lack of appropriate recognition and undeserved  
48 ingratitude that so many of these brave servicemen and  
49 servicewomen received upon returning home, and

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50 WHEREAS, "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" is an  
51 appropriate way to honor those members of the United States  
52 Armed Forces who served during the Vietnam War, NOW, THEREFORE,

53  
54 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
55 Florida:

56  
57 That March 30, 2014, is designated as "Welcome Home Vietnam  
58 Veterans Day" in the State of Florida and, in recognition of the  
59 41st anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in  
60 the Vietnam War, Florida's state agencies and officials,  
61 counties, municipalities, and community organizations are called  
62 upon and encouraged on this day to publicly acknowledge and  
63 demonstrate the state's appreciation for the honorable service  
64 and sacrifice of its Vietnam veterans.