

HR 9097

2015

## House Resolution

A resolution honoring the service and sacrifice of  
Florida's Vietnam veterans.

WHEREAS, with the French loss at Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam,  
the country split into what became North Vietnam, which was  
communist, and South Vietnam, and over a course of 20 years, the  
Vietnam War intensified Cold War anxieties while polarizing the  
views of Americans, and

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

WHEREAS, the United States' involvement in Vietnam was to  
be of an advisory nature to the South Vietnamese because  
policymakers in the United States believed that if South Vietnam  
fell to a communist government, communism would spread  
throughout the rest of Southeast Asia, and

WHEREAS, as conflict intensified and North Vietnamese  
communists prevailed, in 1961, newly elected President John F.  
Kennedy vowed to assume a direct role in the Vietnam War against  
South Vietnam's potential fall to communism, and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 1964, the United States Congress  
overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which  
effectively handed over the war-making powers to President

HR 9097

2015

26 Kennedy's successor, President Lyndon Johnson, until such time  
27 as peace and security had returned to Vietnam, and

28 WHEREAS, in 1965, there were 184,000 United States troops  
29 in Vietnam, and by 1969, that number had grown to more than  
30 500,000 troops, and

31 WHEREAS, on January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords was  
32 signed, which required the release of all United States  
33 prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all  
34 United States Armed Forces, and on March 30, 1973, the United  
35 States completed the withdrawal of combat troops, and

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

39 WHEREAS, because of the intense public opposition to the  
40 war that existed at the time, members of the United States Armed  
41 Forces returned home to an unprecedented lack of formal positive  
42 recognition of their honorable service and the tremendous  
43 sacrifices they had made on behalf of their country, and

44 WHEREAS, the lack of formal "Welcome Home" parades and  
45 other traditional celebrations that were common for United  
46 States soldiers returning from previous military engagements,  
47 coupled with verbal and sometimes physical abuse, resulted in  
48 great disillusionment, undeserved indignity, and often great  
49 suffering and anguish among returning Vietnam veterans, and

50 WHEREAS, it was not until 1982 that the Vietnam Veterans  
51 Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to

HR 9097

2015

52 | commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who  
53 | died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam, and

54 |       WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the House of  
55 | Representatives encourage and support efforts within the state  
56 | to redress the lack of appropriate recognition and undeserved  
57 | ingratitude that so many of these brave servicemen and  
58 | servicewomen received upon returning home, and

59 |       WHEREAS, Florida thanks and welcomes home those members of  
60 | the United States Armed Forces who served during the Vietnam  
61 | War, including more than 500,000 who are residents of this  
62 | state, NOW, THEREFORE,

63 |

64 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
65 | Florida:

66 |

67 |       That in recognition of the 42nd anniversary of the end of  
68 | the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, state  
69 | agencies and officials, counties, municipalities, community  
70 | organizations, and residents are called upon and encouraged to  
71 | publicly acknowledge and demonstrate the state's appreciation  
72 | for the honorable service and sacrifice of its Vietnam veterans.