

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

H

D

HOUSE RESOLUTION DRHR50418-LG-144 (01/04)

Sponsors: Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

Referred to:

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF A
2 "WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY" IN NORTH CAROLINA.

3 Whereas, the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of South Vietnam from 1961
4 to 1975 and involved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed
5 conflict with United States Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam; and

6 Whereas, the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because the
7 United States government wanted to provide direct military support to the Government of
8 South Vietnam to defend itself against the growing communist threat from North Vietnam; and

9 Whereas, members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory
10 role to the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1961; and

11 Whereas, as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and August 4,
12 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408) on
13 August 7, 1964, which provided the authority to the President of the United States to prosecute
14 the war against North Vietnam; and

15 Whereas, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in
16 Vietnam; and

17 Whereas, by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam
18 and, by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached; and

19 Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the
20 release of all United States prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all
21 United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

22 Whereas, on March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the
23 withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam; and

24 Whereas, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese regular forces captured Saigon, the
25 capital of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under communist control; and

26 Whereas, more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their
27 lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 were wounded; and

28 Whereas, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of
29 Columbia to commemorate the lives of those members of the United States Armed Forces who
30 died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam; and

31 Whereas, the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the
32 United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the United
33 States public to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of such veterans; and

34 Whereas, members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and
35 faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the
36 policy decisions made by four presidential administrations of the United States; and



1 Whereas, the establishment of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" would be
2 an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in
3 South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War; and

4 Whereas, the United States Senate agreed to a resolution without amendment and
5 with a preamble by unanimous consent designating March 30, 2011, as "Welcome Home
6 Vietnam Veterans Day"; Now, therefore,

7 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

8 **SECTION 1.** The North Carolina House of Representatives honors and recognizes
9 the contributions of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam during
10 war and during peace; expresses its support for the establishment of March 30 of each year as
11 "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"; encourages State agencies and local governments to
12 support "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"; and encourages the people of this State to
13 observe "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" with appropriate ceremonies and activities
14 that (i) provide the appreciation Vietnam War veterans deserve but did not receive upon
15 returning home from the war; (ii) demonstrate the resolve that never again shall the nation
16 disregard and denigrate a generation of veterans; (iii) promote awareness of the faithful service
17 and contributions of such veterans during their military service as well as to their communities
18 since returning home; (iv) promote awareness of the importance of entire communities
19 empowering veterans and the families of veterans to readjust to civilian life after military
20 service; and (v) promote opportunities for such veterans to assist younger veterans returning
21 from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and unseen,
22 and to support the reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life.

23 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.