



HR1155

LRB100 22299 MST 41074 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, In the late 1950s and early 1960s, United States military personnel began serving as military advisors to the South Vietnamese military in their conflict with North Vietnam; and

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WHEREAS, As the Vietnam War escalated over the subsequent decade; Americans, including many Illinoisans, were called to join the war as the United States implemented a military draft; and

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WHEREAS, As the war continued, over 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces would lose their lives and more than 300,000 were wounded; and

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WHEREAS, Nearly 3,000 Illinoisans were killed or listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War; and

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WHEREAS, Upon returning home, those who served in Vietnam were met with a vigorous public debate about the involvement of the United States in the war; and

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WHEREAS, As these veterans returned home, many of them were not given the credit and support they deserved for dutifully serving their country; many were met with vigorous protests and

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1 condemnations and received widespread insults by opponents of
2 the Vietnam War; and

3 WHEREAS, While service members returning home following
4 World War II and the Korean War were met with homecoming
5 celebrations, veterans returning from Vietnam were met with
6 strong opposition that was directed at them rather than the
7 appropriate decision makers in Washington; and

8 WHEREAS, Many who returned home from the battlefield were
9 spit on, called killers, and ignored by the American public at
10 a time when they needed the support of their fellow citizens;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
14 stand united in our strong support of all military personnel
15 who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War and offer our
16 heartfelt and sincere apology to all Vietnam veterans who were
17 mistreated after returning home from their service; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That we declare November 1, 2018 as "Vietnam
20 Veterans Recognition Day" in the State of Illinois; and be it
21 further

1 RESOLVED, That we urge all Illinoisans to show support and
2 gratitude to all Americans who have worn the uniform of the
3 United States and who put their lives in danger to defend our
4 freedoms; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor and the Secretary of
6 State to instruct that all flags within their purview be
7 lowered to half-mast on November 1, 2018 as a sign of respect
8 to all Vietnam veterans; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
10 presented to the Director of the Illinois Department of
11 Veteran's Affairs, the Illinois Vietnam Veterans of America,
12 the Illinois Secretary of State, and the Governor of the State
13 of Illinois.