

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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SENATE RESOLUTION DRSR15248-LG-204 (06/06)

Sponsors: Senator Pate (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF AN
2 ANNUAL WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 Whereas, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington,
30 D.C. to commemorate the lives of those members of the United States Armed Forces who died
31 or were declared missing in action in Vietnam; and

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



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

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

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

10 Be it resolved by the Senate:

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

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