

By: Smithee

H.R. No. 1123

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud veterans of the Vietnam War are gathering at
2 Veterans of Foreign Wars Golding Meadows Post 1475 in Amarillo to
3 celebrate Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on March 30, 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, Starting in 1961, the United States provided
5 military advisors to the Republic of Vietnam in that nation's
6 struggle against the Communist government of North Vietnam and the
7 guerilla fighters of the Viet Cong; and

8 WHEREAS, After the Gulf of Tonkin incident in August 1964,
9 the U.S. Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, empowering
10 President Lyndon Johnson to commit American troops to the conflict,
11 and by the end of 1965, 80,000 Americans were serving in Vietnam, a
12 number that grew to 543,000 by 1969; and

13 WHEREAS, During the course of the war, more than 58,000
14 members of the U.S. armed forces lost their lives and 300,000 more
15 were wounded; all the Americans who served their nation during that
16 time not only endured the hardships of living and fighting far from
17 home, they often unjustly bore the brunt of the public's increasing
18 disapproval of the conflict; and

19 WHEREAS, In January 1973, the Treaty of Paris required the
20 withdrawal of all American forces from South Vietnam, yet even
21 though the United States withdrew its combat and combat support
22 units from the country by March 30 of that year, the war itself did
23 not end until April 30, 1975, when Saigon, the capital of South
24 Vietnam, fell to the North Vietnamese army; and

1 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in
2 Washington, D.C., in 1982, and yet for many years thereafter, the
3 war remained a divisive issue in our nation, with Vietnam veterans
4 again often unfairly taking the blame for circumstances over which
5 they had no control and in spite of their brave and honorable
6 service, for which they never received a formal welcome home; and

7 WHEREAS, In February 2011, Congress took the long overdue
8 step of designating March 30 to be Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day
9 as an appropriate way to honor those Americans who served their
10 nation thanklessly in Vietnam and other parts of Southeast Asia;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, This year marks the 40th anniversary of the
13 withdrawal of American combat forces from Vietnam, and on that
14 special day, the veterans of Amarillo are gathering to renew the old
15 vows of comradeship and to remember the sacrifice of absent
16 friends; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
18 Legislature hereby commemorate the celebration of Welcome Home
19 Vietnam Veterans Day at VFW Post 1475 in Amarillo and extend to all
20 those who served in that war the heartfelt welcome home that they so
21 richly deserve; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for VFW Post 1475 as an expression of high regard by the
24 Texas House of Representatives.