

By: Button

H.R. No. 2242

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the end
2 of a decades-long conflict in Vietnam, during which American
3 service personnel fought alongside South Vietnamese troops to
4 defend the cause of freedom; and

5 WHEREAS, Concerned about the threat of a Communist takeover
6 in Vietnam, the United States began sending material support to the
7 French forces in that country in 1950, and the flow of military aid
8 and advisors continued after the French withdrew and Vietnam was
9 divided in 1954; the number of advisors climbed significantly in
10 the early 1960s, and in 1962, American helicopter units began to
11 transport South Vietnamese soldiers in military operations; three
12 years later, the first American combat troops landed on South
13 Vietnamese soil; ultimately, more than 2.5 million Americans served
14 in South Vietnam, with 500,000 seeing actual fighting, and over 3.4
15 million served in Southeast Asia; and

16 WHEREAS, During the course of the conflict, more than 58,000
17 American service members lost their lives and over 150,000 were
18 seriously wounded; some 2,500 were listed as missing in action,
19 many of whom remain unaccounted for; losses among South Vietnamese
20 forces are estimated at a quarter of a million killed and perhaps as
21 many badly injured, and countless civilians perished; and

22 WHEREAS, American military involvement in the war ended with
23 the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in January 1973; a few U.S.
24 troops remained in South Vietnam to guard the American Embassy in

1 Saigon, but the last of those were withdrawn on April 30, 1975,
2 hours before the North Vietnamese Army captured the city; in the
3 days before Saigon fell, approximately 135,000 Vietnamese were
4 evacuated stateside, most of them military personnel and urban,
5 educated professionals whose previous associations made them
6 targets of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the ensuing decade, the Communists tightened
8 their grip on the country and 840,000 more people fled, according to
9 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; some crossed
10 Cambodia and Laos to reach Thailand, while hundreds of thousands
11 risked their lives in small, wooden boats; although a large number
12 reached refugee camps in such places as Thailand, Malaysia,
13 Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong, over 250,000 died at sea
14 as a result of storms, illness, starvation, or capture by pirates;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The United States has continued to welcome
17 immigrants from Vietnam; by 2012, this population had reached
18 almost 1.3 million and constituted the sixth-largest foreign-born
19 group in the nation; Texas is now home to well over 200,000
20 Vietnamese Americans, who have made substantial contributions to
21 the economy, education, public service, science, medicine, the
22 arts, and many other aspects of society; and

23 WHEREAS, The observance of this anniversary reminds us of the
24 magnitude of the sacrifices made and hardships endured in the quest
25 for freedom, and we pay tribute to those whose lives were lost and
26 recognize the courage and determination of the Vietnamese people
27 who came to these shores in search of a better life; now, therefore,

1 be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
3 Legislature hereby commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end of
4 the war in Vietnam.