

By: Vo

H.R. No. 1180

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, When the Vietnam War ended with the fall of Saigon in
2 1975, a large number of Vietnamese refugees, including former
3 military personnel, government officials, and those who had worked
4 with the United States during the war, immigrated to surrounding
5 areas and to America; and

6 WHEREAS, From the late 1970s to the mid-1980s, thousands of
7 Vietnamese risked their lives by fleeing Vietnam aboard small
8 wooden boats; approximately half of these emigrants perished at
9 sea, but others reached refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia,
10 Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong; and

11 WHEREAS, Many Vietnamese who came to the United States chose
12 to settle in the metropolitan areas and coastal regions of Texas;
13 these first-generation Vietnamese Americans worked hard and
14 flourished here, and now the state is home to the second-largest
15 Vietnamese population in the United States, with almost 400,000
16 residents, nearly half of whom live in the Houston-Sugar
17 Land-Baytown area; and

18 WHEREAS, Vietnamese Americans have fully embraced all of the
19 democratic principles for which the United States stands, including
20 human rights, religious freedom, freedom of speech, and protection
21 against threats of aggression; and

22 WHEREAS, Vietnamese Americans have denied the authority of
23 the Vietnamese Communist Flag and pushed for governments to
24 officially recognize the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag,

1 which symbolizes both the Vietnamese cultural heritage and a deeply
2 rooted resilience and yearning for democracy; and

3 WHEREAS, Vietnamese Americans strongly support education,
4 and their children are graduating from high schools and higher
5 education institutions at high rates; and

6 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State has benefited enormously from
7 the contributions of its Vietnamese American residents; and

8 WHEREAS, The Vietnamese American community plays a vital role
9 in the business, professional, and cultural life not only of the
10 Lone Star State but also of the country; the number of small
11 businesses owned by Vietnamese Americans has grown substantially,
12 and these firms have created more than 200,000 jobs nationwide,
13 adding billions of dollars to the economy; in addition, Vietnamese
14 Americans contribute to their communities in a myriad of ways, as
15 teachers, lawyers, writers, actors, doctors, mayors, judges, and
16 public servants; among the many Vietnamese Americans who have led
17 notable careers are astronaut Eugene H. Trinh, former Dallas Cowboy
18 Dat Nguyen, and scientist Nguyet Anh Duong, who developed the
19 thermobaric weapon, which has been vital to U.S. military efforts;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, For many decades, people of Vietnamese descent have
22 excelled in our society and economy, enriched our cultural
23 tapestry, and helped enhance and secure the Lone Star State's
24 reputation as a land of promise and possibility; now, therefore, be
25 it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
27 Legislature hereby recognize March 30, 2017, as Vietnamese American

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1 Day at the State Capitol and extend to each participant best wishes
2 for an informative and enjoyable day in Austin.