

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 542**

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Vietnamese Americans have denied the authority of the Vietnamese Communist Flag and pushed for governments to officially recognize the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag, which symbolizes both the Vietnamese cultural heritage and a deeply rooted resilience and yearning for democracy; and

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

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

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

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby recognize March 30, 2017, as Vietnamese American Day at the State Capitol and extend to each participant best wishes for an informative and enjoyable day in Austin.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 30, 2017.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate