

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 592**

**WHEREAS,** The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join Texans across the state in commemorating the anniversary of the fall of Saigon; and

**WHEREAS,** In December of 1974, elements of the People's Army of North Vietnam began to gain significant military victories against South Vietnamese forces in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam; by the end of March, 1975, advancing North Vietnamese troops had captured the strategically crucial cities of Hue and Da Nang;

**WHEREAS,** American officials, concerned about the loss of those key cities and the vulnerability of the capital city of Saigon, began making plans for the evacuation of American personnel and friendly South Vietnamese refugees; the rapid advance of the North Vietnamese military and the significant damage they inflicted on runways at the Tan Son Nhat airport forced a change in American evacuation plans from the use of fixed-wing aircraft to the use of helicopters; and

**WHEREAS,** In early April, more than 110,000 South Vietnamese refugees and 2,000 orphans had been evacuated from Tan Son Nhat; on the evening of April 29, the United States Defense Attaché's Office became a major departure point, with an additional 4,300 American personnel and Vietnamese allies evacuated; flights from Vietnam continued until 3:45 a.m. the following morning, but were halted when Ambassador Graham Martin received direct orders from President Gerald Ford to leave Saigon; and

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**WHEREAS**, The fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, marked the end of one of the longest wars in American history; the courage and sacrifice of embassy personnel who served until the end and of the United States Marines who protected them will continue to serve as an inspiration to future generations; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the men and women who were present at the fall of Saigon; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this historic event.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 10, 2017.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate