

By: Vo

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R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The year 2023 marks the 48th anniversary of the fall  
2 of South Vietnam and the subsequent emigration of hundreds of  
3 thousands of Vietnamese refugees, many of whom settled in the  
4 United States; and

5           WHEREAS, On April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese troops occupied  
6 Saigon, bringing a final end to the Vietnam War, during which  
7 American service personnel fought alongside South Vietnamese  
8 troops to oppose the communist forces of North Vietnam and their  
9 allies; during the course of the conflict, more than 58,000  
10 American service members lost their lives and over 100,000 were  
11 seriously wounded; losses among South Vietnamese forces are  
12 estimated at a quarter of a million killed and perhaps as many badly  
13 injured, and countless civilians perished; and

14           WHEREAS, American military involvement in the war ended with  
15 the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in January 1973; a small  
16 number of U.S. troops remained in South Vietnam to guard the  
17 American Embassy in Saigon, but the last of those were withdrawn in  
18 April 1975, as the North Vietnamese Army closed in on the city; in  
19 the days before Saigon fell, more than 100,000 Vietnamese were  
20 evacuated to the United States, including military personnel and  
21 others whose previous associations made them targets of the Viet  
22 Cong and North Vietnamese; and

23           WHEREAS, Over the ensuing decade, the Communists tightened  
24 their grip on the country and hundreds of thousands more people

1 fled; and

2           WHEREAS, Despite challenges, a multitude of Vietnamese  
3 emigrants were able to establish new lives in other countries;  
4 those settling in the United States were aided by the generous  
5 efforts of the many Americans who extended a helping hand, and  
6 vibrant Vietnamese communities began to take root in cities across  
7 the nation; by 2021, this population had reached approximately 1.9  
8 million and constituted the fourth-largest Asian immigrant group in  
9 the nation; Texas is now home to almost 300,000 Vietnamese  
10 Americans, who have made substantial contributions to the economy,  
11 education, public service, science, medicine, the arts, and many  
12 other aspects of society; and

13           WHEREAS, The observance of this somber anniversary reminds us  
14 of the magnitude of the sacrifices made and hardships endured in the  
15 quest for freedom, and we pay tribute to those whose lives were lost  
16 and recognize the courage and determination of the Vietnamese  
17 people who came to these shores in search of a better life; now,  
18 therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby commemorate the 48th anniversary of the fall of  
21 South Vietnam at the conclusion of the Vietnam War.