

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Designating March 29, 2017, as “Vietnam Veterans Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Designating March 29, 2017, as “Vietnam Veterans Day”.

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of South Vietnam from 1961 to 1975 and involved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with the United States Armed Forces, the armed forces of allies of the United States, and the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct support by the Armed Forces to the Government of South Vietnam to defend South Vietnam against the growing Communist threat from North Vietnam;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Government of South Vietnam in 1950;

Whereas as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88–408) on August 7, 1964, which provided to the President the authority to prosecute the war against North Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

Whereas, by September 1965, there were over 129,000 United States Armed Forces troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak number of United States Armed Forces troops in Vietnam of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam (commonly known as the “Paris Peace Accords”) was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on March 29, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese regular forces captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control;

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam, and more than 300,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded in Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate the members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam;

Whereas the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the United States public to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of those veterans;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made by 4 presidential administrations in the United States; and

Whereas designating March 29, 2017, as “Vietnam Veterans Day” would be an appropriate way to honor the members of the United States Armed Forces who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates March 29, 2017, as “Vietnam
3 Veterans Day”;

4 (2) honors and recognizes the contributions of
5 veterans who served in the United States Armed
6 Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace;

7 (3) encourages States and local governments to
8 designate March 29, 2017, as “Vietnam Veterans
9 Day”; and

1 (4) encourages the people of the United States
2 to observe Vietnam Veterans Day with appropriate
3 ceremonies and activities that—

4 (A) provide the appreciation that veterans
5 of the Vietnam War deserve but did not receive
6 on returning home from the Vietnam War;

7 (B) demonstrate the resolve that never
8 again shall the people of the United States dis-
9 regard and denigrate a generation of veterans;

10 (C) promote awareness of the faithful serv-
11 ice and contributions of the veterans of the
12 Vietnam War—

13 (i) during service in the United States
14 Armed Forces; and

15 (ii) to the communities of the veterans
16 since returning home;

17 (D) promote awareness of the importance
18 of entire communities empowering veterans and
19 the families of veterans in helping the veterans
20 readjust to civilian life after service in the
21 United States Armed Forces; and

22 (E) promote opportunities for veterans of
23 the Vietnam War—

24 (i) to assist younger veterans return-
25 ing from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

1 in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen
2 and unseen; and
3 (ii) to support the reintegration of
4 younger veterans into civilian life.