

HM 205

2012

## House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
urging Congress to initiate and support nationwide  
efforts to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end  
of the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War  
and demonstrate the nation's appreciation for the  
honorable service and sacrifice of Vietnam Veterans.

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was a Cold War military conflict  
that occurred in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from November 1,  
1955, until the United States Congress passed the Case-Church  
amendment in 1973 which prohibited the further use of American  
military forces in the conflict, and

WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the  
United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 650,000 Vietnam veterans in  
the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, because of the intense public opposition to the  
war that existed at the time, members of the United States Armed  
Services returned home to an unprecedented lack of formal  
positive recognition of the honorable service they had provided  
on behalf of their country and the tremendous sacrifices they  
had made, and

WHEREAS, the lack of formal "Welcome Home" parades and  
other traditional celebrations for returning soldiers that were  
common in previous military conflicts in which the United States  
was engaged, coupled with verbal and sometimes physical abuse,  
resulted in great disillusionment, undeserved indignity, and

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often great suffering and anguish among returning Vietnam veterans, and

WHEREAS, many of these brave men and women are now reaching an advanced age, and

WHEREAS, March 30, 2013, will mark the official date of the 40th anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, and

WHEREAS, on that date this nation will be presented with a unique and historic opportunity to hold appropriate observances and long-overdue recognition ceremonies that will honor our nation's aging Vietnam War veterans and that may finally provide these brave men and women a fitting expression of gratitude and a measure of healing and official closure that has been denied them for decades and that they so greatly deserve, and

WHEREAS, the importance of the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War and the opportunity that such an historical anniversary presents to attempt to rectify past injustices and ingratitude cannot be stressed strongly enough, and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the United States Congress initiate and support efforts at the national level to mark this historic anniversary and to attempt to redress the lack of appropriate recognition and undeserved ingratitude that so many of these brave servicemen and servicewomen received upon returning home, and

WHEREAS, as part of a national effort, it is also requested that the United States Congress authorize the minting of a 40th anniversary commemorative medal expressing the nation's

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57 appreciation for the honorable service of Vietnam veterans, and  
58 WHEREAS, for this historic opportunity to be fully  
59 realized, the United States Congress should act promptly and  
60 decisively, NOW, THEREFORE,

61  
62 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

63  
64 That the Congress of the United States is urged to initiate  
65 and support nationwide efforts to commemorate the 40th  
66 anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in the  
67 Vietnam War and demonstrate the nation's appreciation for the  
68 honorable service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of such national  
70 effort, the United States Congress is requested to authorize the  
71 minting of a 40th anniversary commemorative medal expressing the  
72 nation's appreciation for the honorable service of Vietnam  
73 veterans.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
75 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
76 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
77 United States House of Representatives, to each member of the  
78 Florida delegation to the United States Congress, and to the  
79 legislative governing body of each of the other 49 states of the  
80 United States.