

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDWARDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize November 13, 2013, through November 11, 2025, as the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

WHEREAS, in observance of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, it is important as a nation and state that we reflect upon the valor of a generation that served with honor and although long and controversial in nature, this war in many ways defined an entire generation of Americans; and

WHEREAS, although American involvement in the conflict of Vietnam spanned several decades and presidencies, the ground offensive officially began in March of 1965, with the deployment of 2,500 Marines and by the end of that year, nearly 200,000 American troops were in Vietnam. The strength of the Allied Armed Forces peaked at 543,482 troops during the Vietnam war; and

WHEREAS, we draw inspiration from our Louisiana heroes who suffered unspeakable tragedies. Approximately 153,303 veterans suffered nonmortal wounding, 14 were held as Prisoners of War, and 24 remain unaccounted for; and

WHEREAS, by the official end of the Vietnam War in April of 1975, nearly three million American servicemen and women had been on the ground, in the air, on the rivers, and at sea within Vietnam's borders serving in some capacity during the conflict. As a grateful nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots who paid the ultimate sacrifice during this difficult and painful period; and

WHEREAS, of the 7,391,000 Vietnam veterans, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that roughly 106,148 reside in Louisiana. In the half century since the official beginning of the Vietnam War, our nation has grappled with the sensitive effects of this struggle which accompanies all wars. Yet, we remain thankful to those who fought in this conflict and honor the legacy of service that they built; and

WHEREAS, the freedom and liberties we are blessed to enjoy today are a direct result of the courage, devotion, and sacrifice of the members of our Armed Forces. We are grateful for their brave service and draw inspiration and pride from all that they are.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby recognizes November 13, 2013, through November 11, 2025, as the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE