

By Senator Evers

2-00001-13

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing March 30, 2013, and each March 30 thereafter as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnam and the Vietcong in conflict with the United States and South Vietnam, and

WHEREAS, the United States became involved in Vietnam, first in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese, because policymakers in the United States believed that if South Vietnam fell to a communist government, communism would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia, and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 1964, the United States Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which effectively handed over the war-making powers to President Lyndon Johnson until such time as peace and security had returned to Vietnam, and

WHEREAS, in 1965, there were 184,000 United States troops in Vietnam and, by 1969, that number had grown to about 475,000 troops, and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris 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, and, on March 30, 1973, the United States completed the withdrawal of combat troops, and

WHEREAS, during the course of the war, more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 were wounded, and

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30 WHEREAS, upon their return home, members of the United
31 States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the
32 United States during the Vietnam War were caught in the
33 crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United
34 States in the war, and the issue remained a divisive one for
35 many years, and

36 WHEREAS, it was not until 1982 that the Vietnam Veterans
37 Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to
38 commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who
39 died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam, and

40 WHEREAS, the establishment of "Welcome Home Vietnam
41 Veterans Day" is an appropriate way to honor those members of
42 the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the
43 Vietnam War, NOW, THEREFORE,

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45 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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47 That March 30, 2013, and each March 30 thereafter be
48 recognized as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."