

20121080er

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2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
3 urging Congress to initiate and support nationwide  
4 efforts to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end  
5 of the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War  
6 and demonstrate the nation's appreciation for the  
7 honorable service and sacrifice of Vietnam Veterans.  
8

9 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was a Cold War military conflict  
10 that occurred in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from November 1,  
11 1955, until the United States Congress passed the Case-Church  
12 amendment in 1973 which prohibited the further use of American  
13 military forces in the conflict, and

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, the lack of formal "Welcome Home" parades and  
25 other traditional celebrations for returning soldiers that were  
26 common in previous military conflicts in which the United States  
27 was engaged, coupled with verbal and sometimes physical abuse,  
28 resulted in great disillusionment, undeserved indignity, and  
29 often great suffering and anguish among returning Vietnam

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30 veterans, and

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

33 WHEREAS, March 30, 2013, will mark the official date of the  
34 40th anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in  
35 the Vietnam War, and

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

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

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

54 WHEREAS, as part of a national effort, it is also requested  
55 that the United States Congress authorize the minting of a 40th  
56 anniversary commemorative medal expressing the nation's  
57 appreciation for the honorable service of Vietnam veterans, and

58 WHEREAS, for this historic opportunity to be fully

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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:

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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.