

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 409

To add Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and national observance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To add Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and national observance.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (1) the Vietnam War was fought in the Repub-
6 lic of South Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and in-
7 volved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet
8 Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with United
9 States Armed Forces, allies of the United States,
10 and the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam;

1 (2) the United States Armed Forces became in-
2 volved in Vietnam because the United States Gov-
3 ernment wanted to provide direct military support to
4 the Government of South Vietnam to defend itself
5 against the growing Communist threat from North
6 Vietnam;

7 (3) members of the United States Armed
8 Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Gov-
9 ernment of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1950;

10 (4) as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents
11 on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly
12 passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law
13 88-408), on August 7, 1964, which provided the au-
14 thority to the President of the United States to
15 prosecute the war against North Vietnam;

16 (5) in 1965, United States Armed Forces
17 ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

18 (6) by September 1965, there were over
19 129,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by
20 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was
21 reached;

22 (7) on January 27, 1973, the Agreement End-
23 ing the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam (com-
24 monly known as the “Paris Peace Accords”) was
25 signed, which required the release of all United

1 States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and
2 the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces
3 from South Vietnam;

4 (8) on March 29, 1973, the United States
5 Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat
6 units and combat support units from South Viet-
7 nam;

8 (9) on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese reg-
9 ular forces captured Saigon, the capitol of South
10 Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under
11 Communist control;

12 (10) more than 58,000 members of the United
13 States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and
14 more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces
15 were wounded;

16 (11) in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
17 was dedicated in the District of Columbia to com-
18 memorate those members of the United States
19 Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-
20 action in Vietnam;

21 (12) the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive
22 issue among the people of the United States and a
23 conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait
24 too long for the United States public to acknowledge
25 and honor the efforts and services of such veterans;

1 (13) members of the United States Armed
2 Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the
3 United States during the Vietnam War were often
4 wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made by 4
5 presidential administrations in the United States;

6 (14) the establishment of a “Vietnam Veterans
7 Day” would be an appropriate way to honor those
8 members of the United States Armed Forces who
9 served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast
10 Asia during the Vietnam War;

11 (15) March 29 would be an appropriate day to
12 establish as “Vietnam Veterans Day”; and

13 (16) President Obama designated March 29,
14 2012, as Vietnam Veterans Day under Presidential
15 Proclamation 8789 (77 Fed. Reg. 20275).

16 (b) VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.—Chapter 1 of title 36,
17 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
18 following:

19 **“§ 145. Vietnam Veterans Day**

20 “The President may issue each year a proclama-
21 tion—

22 “(1) designating March 29 as Vietnam Vet-
23 erans Day;

1 “(2) honoring and recognizing the contributions
2 of veterans who served in the United States Armed
3 Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace;

4 “(3) encouraging States and local governments
5 to establish a Vietnam Veterans Day; and

6 “(4) encouraging the people of the United
7 States to observe Vietnam Veterans Day with appro-
8 priate ceremonies and activities that—

9 “(A) provide the appreciation veterans of
10 the Vietnam War deserve, but did not receive
11 upon returning home from the war;

12 “(B) demonstrate the resolve that never
13 again shall the people of the United States dis-
14 regard and denigrate a generation of veterans;

15 “(C) promote awareness of the faithful
16 service and contributions of the veterans of the
17 Vietnam War during military service as well as
18 to the communities of the veterans since return-
19 ing home;

20 “(D) promote awareness of the importance
21 of entire communities empowering veterans and
22 the families of veterans in helping the veterans
23 readjust to civilian life after military service;
24 and

1 “(E) promote opportunities for veterans of
2 the Vietnam War to assist younger veterans re-
3 turning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
4 in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and
5 unseen, and to support the reintegration of
6 younger veterans into civilian life.”.

7 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
8 tions for chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is
9 amended by adding at the end the following:

“145. Vietnam Veterans Day.”.

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