

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2013

Source
HCR 4

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
8



Proclaiming May 15 to be Hmong-American Veterans Memorial Day.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS, beginning in 1960, the United States Central Intelligence Agency recruited thousands of Hmong to fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese Army regulars in Laos; and

WHEREAS, in July 1961, Brigadier General Edward G. Lansdale wrote in a memo to General Maxwell D. Taylor that "about 9,000 Hmong tribesmen have been equipped for guerrilla operations, which they are now conducting with considerable effectiveness in Communist-dominated territory in Laos"; and

WHEREAS as many as 100,000 Hmong were recruited and trained as Special Guerrilla Units to engage the North Vietnamese Army; and

WHEREAS the United States relied heavily on the Special Guerrilla Units to interdict the flow of the communist reinforcements and war supplies on the Ho Chi Minh Trail; and

WHEREAS the Hmong, although outnumbered, fought against enemy forces to disrupt the flow of troops and war supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail; and

WHEREAS the Hmong conducted tactical guerrilla actions, flew thousands of deadly

combat missions in support of the United States Armed Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency, and fought in conventional and guerilla combat with extreme casualties; and

WHEREAS the Hmong protected United States personnel, guarded United States Air Force radar installations, gathered critical intelligence about enemy operations, and undertook rescue missions to save the lives of downed United States pilots; and

WHEREAS about 40,000 Hmong lost their lives defending democracy, approximately 50,000 Hmong were seriously injured and disabled, and 3,000 Hmong were missing in action; and

WHEREAS Hmong soldiers died at 10 times the rate of American soldiers in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, because the war effort of the United States in Laos was covert, accounts of the sacrifices and service of the Hmong veterans remain largely untold; and

WHEREAS the Hmong became refugees because the United States government encouraged them to fight for the United States, and, as a result, thousands of family members of Hmong soldiers were evacuated to a United States airbase in Thailand to avoid bloody vengeance by communists in Laos and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, after the conclusion of the war, thousands of Hmong soldiers suffered acts of retribution and atrocities by the Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese, causing hundreds of thousands of Hmong refugees to flee to neighboring Thailand; and

WHEREAS approximately 50,000 Hmong veterans reside in the United States, and 150,000 Hmong and Laotian-born children have graduated from schools in this country; and

WHEREAS little is known or taught in the United States about Hmong history and the contributions made to the United States by the Hmong people; and

WHEREAS future generations of Hmong-Americans may not learn the full history of the Hmong people's honorable service to the United States unless the Hmong are formally commemorated; and

WHEREAS state and local governments have issued proclamations declaring May 15 as Hmong Veterans of America Day;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims May 15 to be Hmong-American Veterans Memorial Day, to promote, publicize, and increase awareness of the important role the Hmong have played in United States history, to commemorate Hmong

History Month, and to afford an opportunity for people to recognize the service and sacrifice of the Hmong with appropriate ceremonies and activities.