



General Assembly

**Senate Joint  
Resolution No. 6**

*February Session, 2024*

LCO No. 1512



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

Introduced by:  
(VA)

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING VETERANS OF THE  
VIETNAM WAR WHO WERE EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, the United States was founded by those willing to  
2 endure enormous sacrifice so that individual and collective freedoms  
3 may be ensured; and

4 WHEREAS, Connecticut was and is home to countless veterans of the  
5 armed forces who performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

6 WHEREAS, throughout the years, servicemembers have been called  
7 upon to take up arms against the enemies of the United States, and to  
8 risk their lives and leave behind their loved ones, for the purpose of  
9 honorably safeguarding the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to the  
10 nation's citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, over eight million such citizens bravely served in the  
12 Vietnam War, during a time when the herbicide known as "Agent  
13 Orange" was widely used in Vietnam as part of the United States'

14 herbicidal warfare program Operation Ranch Hand, from 1961 to 1971;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, nearly twenty million gallons of this orange powder  
17 were sprayed over the land from helicopters or low-flying aircraft,  
18 destroying vegetation and crops in order to deprive enemy guerillas of  
19 food and cover for their activities and exposing roughly two million six  
20 hundred thousand United States servicemembers to the herbicide and  
21 defoliant chemical; and

22 WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a dioxin and carcinogenic chemical that  
23 enters the body through physical contact or ingestion and moves into  
24 the human cell nucleus, where it attacks the genes and causes a number  
25 of serious illnesses, including leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, ischemic  
26 heart disease, soft tissue sarcoma, amyloidosis, diabetes and cancers of  
27 the throat, prostate, lung and colon; and

28 WHEREAS, Agent Orange also causes genetic damage and, in some  
29 cases, the children and grandchildren of veterans exposed to Agent  
30 Orange have been born with spina bifida and other health issues; and

31 WHEREAS, less than eight hundred thousand Vietnam veterans who  
32 were exposed to Agent Orange are alive today, and approximately three  
33 hundred deaths occur among such veterans each day; and

34 WHEREAS, while the names of fallen servicemembers are listed  
35 upon the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., those  
36 veterans who fall victim to the effects of Agent Orange are not  
37 recognized as fatalities of the Vietnam War.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General  
39 Assembly hereby recognizes the veterans of the Vietnam War who were  
40 exposed to Agent Orange and honors such veterans for their untold and  
41 immeasurable sacrifice in service to this nation and its citizens.

**VA**      *Joint Favorable*