



General Assembly

**Senate Joint Resolution
No. 12**

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 3641



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
5 the armed forces who performed above and beyond the call of duty;
6 and

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

12 WHEREAS, over eight million such citizens bravely served in the
13 Vietnam War, during a time when the herbicide known as "Agent

14 Orange" was widely used in Vietnam as part of the United States'
15 herbicidal warfare program Operation Ranch Hand, from 1961 to 1971;
16 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

VA *Joint Favorable*