

House Resolution 204

By: Representatives Bonner of the 73rd, Hitchens of the 161st, Williams of the 168th, DeLoach of the 167th, and Thomas of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the return of prisoners of war during Operation
2 Homecoming from February 12, 1973, to April 4, 1973, as a result of the Paris Peace
3 Accords, to remember those still missing and to honor all Vietnam era and Vietnam War
4 veterans and their families; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was fought in Southeast Asia from August 5, 1964, to May
6 7, 1975, and the United States also held an advisory role from July 1, 1958, to August 4,
7 1964, in an effort to bring an end to the Cold War; and

8 WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put
9 their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the
10 freedoms cherished by all United States citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, Georgia has always provided its best and brightest sons and daughters to serve
12 this country during times of war and peace in the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy,
13 Air Force, Coast Guard, Army Reserve, and National Guard; and

14 WHEREAS, more than 228,000 men and women from Georgia served during the Vietnam
15 War: 1,584 Georgians were killed in action; 8,534 were wounded in action; 21 were held as

16 prisoners of war; 28 Georgians are still unaccounted for; and 28 Georgians' remains have
17 been repatriated; and

18 WHEREAS, a total 591 Americans were freed between February 12, 1973, and April 4,
19 1973, during Operation Homecoming: 325 Air Force personnel, 77 Army, 138 Navy, 26
20 Marines, and 25 civilians; and

21 WHEREAS, 1,581 Americans are still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, all of Georgia's Vietnam era and Vietnam War veterans, including personnel
24 who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, are to be highly commended
25 for their service, sacrifice, and devotion to duty during a most trying time in America's
26 history; and

27 WHEREAS, the families of the returned prisoners of war were reunited with their loved
28 ones, other families received the dreaded news that their missing loved one had died in
29 captivity, and many more families were left without answers; only the continued uncertainty
30 as to the fate of their missing loved one; and

31 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia expresses its sincere appreciation for these service
32 members, their families, and the contributions that they have made to the state; and

33 WHEREAS, the selfless and heroic actions of this generation stand as a shining tribute to the
34 strength of the human spirit and willpower, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the
35 sacrifices and accomplishments of these remarkable and distinguished Americans and
36 Georgians be appropriately recognized.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body commend and honor all Vietnam era and Vietnam War veterans,
39 their families, and their efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public service to the
40 citizens of Georgia, America, Southeast Asia, and the world and recognize both the joyous
41 and bittersweet aspects of the 50th anniversary of Operation Homecoming.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
44 public and the press.