

Senate Resolution 615

By: Senators Harbison of the 15th, Dugan of the 30th, Loudermilk of the 14th, Hill of the 6th and Davenport of the 44th

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans parades and similar events; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of Vietnam from 1961 to 1975 and
4 involved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict
5 with United States armed forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States armed forces became involved in Vietnam because the United
7 States government wanted to provide direct military support to the South Vietnam
8 government so it could defend itself against the growing Communist threat from North
9 Vietnam, and members of the United States armed forces began serving in an advisory role
10 to the South Vietnam government in 1961; and

11 WHEREAS, as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress
12 overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408) on August 7,
13 1964, which provided the authority to the President of the United States to prosecute the war
14 against North Vietnam, and in 1965, United States armed forces ground combat units arrived
15 in Vietnam; and

16 WHEREAS, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release
17 of all United States prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United
18 States armed forces from South Vietnam, and on March 30, 1973, the United States armed
19 forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from the country;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, on April 30, 1975, the United States Embassy in Saigon executed a chaotic
22 evacuation of United States and allied personnel, which was successful in large part because
23 of the dedication and personal bravery of a small cadre of American security officers, and

24 on that date, North Vietnamese regular forces captured Saigon, the capitol of South Vietnam,
25 effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control; and

26 WHEREAS, more than 58,000 members of the United States armed forces lost their lives in
27 Vietnam, and more than 300,000 members of the armed forces were wounded; and

28 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the
29 United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the
30 United States public to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of such veterans, and
31 members of the United States armed forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United
32 States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made
33 by four presidential administrations in the United States; and

34 WHEREAS, even as veterans of that war are reaching the end of their lives, it is never too
35 late to honor those who have been unjustly denied recognition, and the staging of Welcome
36 Home Vietnam Veterans parades and similar events would be a way to honor those members
37 of the United States armed forces who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast
38 Asia during the Vietnam War.

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
40 encourage counties and cities throughout this state, large and small, to organize and stage
41 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans parades and similar events to honor those who served
42 faithfully and well.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
44 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.