

AN ACT relating to establishing Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Kentucky.

WHEREAS, there are over 125,000 Kentucky Vietnam veterans in the Commonwealth, and they have contributed greatly to business, art, medicine, science, technology, and government service; and

WHEREAS, more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces, including 1,103 from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, lost their lives in Vietnam, and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the city of Frankfort, Kentucky, to honor the 125,000 Kentuckians who served this nation so courageously and unselfishly during the Vietnam era; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States, and the crossfire of debate about the country's involvement in the war prevented many members of the Armed Forces from receiving the honor and respect they deserve; and

WHEREAS, although civil discourse in the political affairs of the United States should be encouraged, it is never too late to say "I am sorry" and "thank you" to our Vietnam veterans; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day is an appropriate way to express appreciation and honor the members of the United States Armed Forces, as well as the members of service organizations who bravely served the country and their fellow citizens during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2009, the 111th Congress proclaimed a national Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, encouraging the people of the United States to observe this day with ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the numerous contributions of veterans who served in Vietnam and the importance of helping all of America's veterans return home and achieve happy, healthy, and productive lives;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

*The thirtieth day of March each year is designated as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.*

➔Section 2. The Governor shall issue a proclamation each year designating March 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and direct the executive branch to acknowledge the day in commemoration of the numerous contributions of veterans who served in Vietnam.