

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 167

Recognizing Ambassador Douglas “Pete” Peterson for his service to the United States as the first American ambassador to Vietnam since the Vietnam War.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 3, 2001

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing Ambassador Douglas “Pete” Peterson for his service to the United States as the first American ambassador to Vietnam since the Vietnam War.

Whereas, while serving as a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force, Pete Peterson was shot down over North Vietnam in 1966 and captured by the Vietnamese military;

Whereas Pete Peterson was held for 6½ years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam;

Whereas, after his return to the United States in 1973, Pete Peterson distinguished himself as a businessman and educator in his home State of Florida;

Whereas Pete Peterson was elected to Congress to represent the 2nd Congressional District of Florida in 1990 and went on to serve three terms;

Whereas Pete Peterson first returned to Vietnam in 1991 as a Member of Congress investigating Vietnamese progress on the POW/MIA issue;

Whereas President Reagan began the process of normalizing United States relations with Vietnam;

Whereas President Clinton lifted the trade embargo against Vietnam in 1994;

Whereas President Clinton normalized diplomatic relations with Vietnam in 1995;

Whereas in 1997 Pete Peterson was appointed the first United States ambassador to Vietnam in 22 years;

Whereas, throughout Pete Peterson's tenure as United States Ambassador to Vietnam, the President certified annually that the Government of Vietnam was "fully cooperating in good faith" with the United States to obtain the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing from the Vietnam War;

Whereas Ambassador Peterson played a critical role in the process of building a new and normal relationship between the United States and Vietnam;

Whereas Ambassador Peterson worked tirelessly to encourage the Government of Vietnam to continue its efforts to reform and open Vietnam's economy;

Whereas, thanks to Ambassador Peterson's leadership, Congress in 1998 approved a waiver of the Jackson-Vanik restrictions for Vietnam, thus enabling the Overseas Pri-

vate Investment Corporation and the Export-Import Bank to operate in Vietnam;

Whereas completion of a United States-Vietnam trade agreement was Ambassador Peterson's top trade priority;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam began negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement in 1996;

Whereas Ambassador Peterson's diplomatic efforts throughout the process of negotiation were invaluable to the completion of the bilateral trade agreement;

Whereas in the agreement the Government of Vietnam agreed to a wide range of steps to open its markets to American trade and investment;

Whereas the agreement will pave the way for further reform of Vietnam's economy and Vietnam's integration into the world economy;

Whereas Ambassador Peterson witnessed the signing of the United States-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement on July 13, 2000;

Whereas President Bush transmitted that trade agreement to Congress on June 8, 2001;

Whereas the United States House of Representatives approved the agreement on September 6, 2001; and

Whereas the United States Senate approved the agreement on October 3, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved*, That Douglas "Pete" Peterson is recog-
- 2 nized by the United States Senate for his outstanding and
- 3 dedicated service to the United States as United States

- 1 Ambassador to Vietnam from 1997–2001, and for his his-
- 2 toric role in normalizing United States-Vietnam relations.

