

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2255

To amend chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, to add Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and National observance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 2012

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, to add Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and National observance.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (1) the Vietnam War was fought in the Repub-
6 lic of South Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and in-
7 volved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet
8 Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with United
9 States Armed Forces, allies of the United States,
10 and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam;

1 (2) the United States Armed Forces became in-
2 volved in Vietnam because the United States Gov-
3 ernment wanted to provide direct military support to
4 the Government of South Vietnam to defend itself
5 against the growing Communist threat from North
6 Vietnam;

7 (3) members of the United States Armed
8 Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Gov-
9 ernment of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1961;

10 (4) as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents
11 on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly
12 passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law
13 88-408), on August 7, 1964, which provided the au-
14 thority to the President of the United States to
15 prosecute the war against North Vietnam;

16 (5) in 1965, United States Armed Forces
17 ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

18 (6) by the end of 1965, there were 80,000
19 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a
20 peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;

21 (7) on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris
22 was signed, which required the release of all United
23 States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and
24 the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces
25 from South Vietnam;

1 (8) on March 29, 1973, the United States
2 Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat
3 units and combat support units from South Viet-
4 nam;

5 (9) on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese reg-
6 ular forces captured Saigon, the capitol of South
7 Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under
8 Communist control;

9 (10) more than 58,000 members of the United
10 States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and
11 more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces
12 were wounded;

13 (11) in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
14 was dedicated in the District of Columbia to com-
15 memorate those members of the United States
16 Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-
17 action in Vietnam;

18 (12) the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive
19 issue among the people of the United States and a
20 conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait
21 too long for the United States public to acknowledge
22 and honor the efforts and services of such veterans;

23 (13) members of the United States Armed
24 Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the
25 United States during the Vietnam War were often

1 wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made by 4
2 presidential administrations in the United States;

3 (14) the establishment of a “Welcome Home
4 Vietnam Veterans Day” would be an appropriate
5 way to honor those members of the United States
6 Armed Forces who served in South Vietnam and
7 throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War;
8 and

9 (15) March 29 would be an appropriate day to
10 establish as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
11 Day”.

12 (b) WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.—
13 Chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by
14 adding at the end the following:

15 **“§ 145. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day**

16 “‘The President may issue each year a proclama-
17 tion—

18 “(1) designating March 29 as Welcome Home
19 Vietnam Veterans Day;

20 “(2) honoring and recognizing the contributions
21 of veterans who served in the United States Armed
22 Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace;

23 “(3) encouraging States and local governments
24 to establish a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
25 Day; and

1 “(4) encouraging the people of the United
2 States to observe Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
3 Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities
4 that—

5 “(A) provide the appreciation veterans of
6 the Vietnam War deserve, but did not receive
7 upon returning home from the war;

8 “(B) demonstrate the resolve that never
9 again shall the people of the United States dis-
10 regard and denigrate a generation of veterans;

11 “(C) promote awareness of the faithful
12 service and contributions of the veterans of the
13 Vietnam War during military service as well as
14 to the communities of the veterans since return-
15 ing home;

16 “(D) promote awareness of the importance
17 of entire communities empowering veterans and
18 the families of veterans in helping the veterans
19 readjust to civilian life after military service;
20 and

21 “(E) promote opportunities for veterans of
22 the Vietnam War to assist younger veterans re-
23 turning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
24 in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and

1 unseen, and to support the reintegration of
2 younger veterans into civilian life.”.

3 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
4 tions for chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

“145. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.”.

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