

House Concurrent Resolution No. 29

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES CONWAY (27) (Sponsor), TALBOY, McMANUS, KRATKY, QUINN, LAMPE, FALLERT, McNEIL, OXFORD, ATKINS, PACE, MEADOWS, SCHUPP, JOHNSON, HOLSMAN, KELLY (24), HARRIS, ANDERS, ELLINGER AND STILL (Co-sponsors).

0942L.011

2 **WHEREAS**, in 1961, President John F. Kennedy sent 100 Special Forces Troops to
3 Vietnam to help the South Vietnamese government in its war against the Vietcong guerrillas; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, on February 13, 1965, President Johnson authorized Operation Rolling
5 Thunder, a limited but long lasting bombing offensive which began on March 2, 1965; and

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7 **WHEREAS**, on June 27, 1965, General William Westmoreland launched the first purely
8 offensive operation by American ground forces in Vietnam; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, by the end of 1966, American forces in the Vietnam Conflict reached
11 385,000 men and women, plus an additional 60,000 sailors stationed offshore; and

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13 **WHEREAS**, in November of 1968, three and a half years after it began, Operation
14 Rolling Thunder came to an end, with losses totaling more than 900 American aircraft, 818 pilots
15 dead or missing, and hundreds in captivity; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, when President Richard Nixon took office in January 1969, he promised
18 to achieve "Peace With Honor" by negotiating a settlement that would allow our then 500,000
19 United States troops in Vietnam to be withdrawn while still allowing South Vietnam to survive;
20 and

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22 **WHEREAS**, by the beginning of 1972 only 133,000 United States service men and
23 women remained in South Vietnam. Two-thirds of the American forces had been removed in
24 the previous two years, with the ground war almost exclusively the responsibility of the South
25 Vietnamese; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, on January 8, 1973, North Vietnam and the United States resumed peace
28 talks in Paris, resulting in the warring parties signing a cease fire on January 27, 1973; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, in March 1973 the last American combat soldiers left South Vietnam,
31 marking the official end of United States involvement in the Vietnam Conflict. Many military
32 advisors and the Marines remained to protect United States military installations. Of the more
33 than 3 million Americans who served during the Vietnam Conflict, almost 58,000 were killed,
34 over 1,000 were missing in action, and 150,000 were seriously wounded; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, at 4:03 a.m. on April 30, 1975, two United States Marines became the last
37 two American casualties in the Vietnam Conflict. At dawn, the last Marines of the force
38 guarding the United States embassy lifted off. Only hours later, looters ransacked the embassy
39 and North Vietnamese tanks rolled into Saigon, ending the 15-year war; and

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41 **WHEREAS**, many veterans of the Vietnam Conflict came home not only to no parades,
42 ceremonies, and public celebrations in honor of their courageous service to our nation, but in too
43 many instances to scorn and ridicule for their participation in an unpopular war; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, many of these Vietnam Veterans are now in the sixties and have lived in
46 silence about their past experiences; and

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48 **WHEREAS**, a special recognition and welcoming may serve to open a dialogue with
49 these Vietnam Veterans and allow the State of Missouri to show its appreciation for the courage
50 and unwavering patriotism of those valiant men and women of the armed forces of the United
51 States who served during the Vietnam Conflict:

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53 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
54 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
55 concurring therein, hereby designate November 11, 2011, as "Vietnam Veterans Recognition
56 Day" in Missouri to be observed in conjunction with Veterans Day; and

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58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly encourages the citizens of
59 this state to observe the day with appropriate events, activities, and remembrances in honor of
60 the veterans who bravely fought, served, and sacrificed during the Vietnam Conflict and returned
61 home to no parades, ceremonies, or public celebrations to welcome them in gratitude for their
62 courageous service given and sacrifices made on behalf of our nation.