

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1854

A RESOLUTION designating March 30 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1961; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, By the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached; and

WHEREAS, On January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, On March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and was also a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the United States public to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of such veterans; and

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the policy decisions made by four presidential administrations in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That March 30 shall hereby be designated as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in the state of Kansas in order to honor and recognize the contributions of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam during war and during peace; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the people of Kansas are encouraged to observe "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that provide the appreciation Vietnam War veterans deserve but did not receive upon returning home from the war; and

*Be it further resolved:* That local communities are encouraged to promote opportunities for such veterans to assist younger veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and unseen, and to support the reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Kelly.

Senate Resolution No. 1854 was sponsored by Senators Kelly, Abrams, Apple, Bruce, Brungardt, Donovan, Emler, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Haley, Hensley, Holland, Huntington, Kelsey, King, Kultala, Longbine, Love, Lynn, Marshall, Masterson, McGinn, Merrick, Morris, Olson, Ostmeyer, Owens, Petersen, Pilcher-Cook, Pyle, Reitz, A. Schmidt, V. Schmidt, Schodorf, Taddiken, Teichman, Umbarger, Vratil and Wagle.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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Secretary of the Senate.