

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R21-0953.01 Bethanie Pack x4829

SJR21-011

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Story and Coram,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sullivan and Catlin,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21-011

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE OF MILITARY**
102 **VETERANS IN COLORADO WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR.**

1 WHEREAS, United States military involvement in the Vietnam
2 War began in the Republic of South Vietnam in the 1950s and continued
3 until 1975, involving North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong
4 guerrilla forces in armed conflict with United States Armed Forces and
5 the Army of the Republic of Vietnam; and

6 WHEREAS, During this period, more than 2,700,000 American
7 soldiers, both volunteers and draftees, served tours of duty in Vietnam,
8 with a total of more than 9,000,000 active duty military personnel, in
9 what was an extremely long, difficult, and complex war; and

10 WHEREAS, More than 58,220 members of the United States

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 Armed Forces, including 623 Coloradans, lost their lives in Vietnam, and
2 more than 300,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were
3 wounded; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition, more than 2,500 members of the United
5 States Armed Forces were listed as prisoners of war (POWs) or missing
6 in action, including 41 Coloradans, 24 of whom remain unaccounted for;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Denver Regional Office of the
9 federal Department of Veterans Affairs, as of 2014, an estimated
10 7,000,000 members of the United States Armed Forces who served their
11 country during the Vietnam era are still alive today, including more than
12 120,000 Coloradans; and

13 WHEREAS, On January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were
14 signed, which required the release of all United States POWs held in
15 North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces
16 from South Vietnam; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Armed Forces completed the
18 withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South
19 Vietnam by March 30, 1973; and

20 WHEREAS, On April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese regular forces
21 captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, marking the official end
22 of the Vietnam War; and

23 WHEREAS, As American military personnel completed their tours
24 of duty in Vietnam, they returned home to a citizenry that was divided in
25 its opinions of that conflict, and many people failed to distinguish their
26 political and philosophical viewpoints toward the war from the
27 individuals who had served; and

28 WHEREAS, In the intervening decades, our citizenry has come to
29 understand more clearly the importance of recognizing and respecting the
30 service of military veterans, regardless of any other opinions or issues;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, The need for a formal recognition of the return of
33 veterans from the Vietnam War is as important now as ever, not only for
34 those veterans who served but for all citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, April 30, 2021, marks the 46th anniversary of the end
2 of the Vietnam War; now, therefore,

3 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General*
4 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
5 *concurring herein:*

6 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby:

7 (1) Honor the service and sacrifices of the military veterans in
8 Colorado who served in Vietnam, including the South Vietnamese
9 soldiers who served alongside American troops;

10 (2) Recognize the particular challenges faced by many of these
11 veterans, both while serving in Vietnam and upon returning home;

12 (3) Express our appreciation for their fortitude; their activism on
13 behalf of fellow veterans; their steadfast patriotism; their many
14 accomplishments and contributions; and the leadership they have shown
15 to their families, community organizations, and the state; and

16 (4) Encourage all Coloradans to remember the sacrifices made by
17 Vietnam veterans.

18 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
19 to the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; the United
20 Veterans Committee of Colorado; Project Sanctuary; the United States
21 Vietnamese American Volunteers Alliance; the President of the United
22 States Joseph R. Biden; the honorable Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado;
23 and the Colorado Congressional delegation.