

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

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R19-0843.01 Joel Moore x4497

HJR19-1009

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Weissman and Landgraf,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Court and Crowder,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 19-1009

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

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 WHEREAS, More than 58,220 members of the United States
2 Armed Forces, including 623 Coloradans, lost their lives in Vietnam, and
3 more than 300,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were
4 wounded; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition, more than 2,500 members of the United
6 States Armed Forces were listed as "Prisoners of War" (POWs) or
7 "Missing In Action", including 41 Coloradans, 24 of whom remain
8 unaccounted for; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the Denver Regional Office of the
10 federal Department of Veteran Affairs, as of 2014, an estimated
11 7,000,000 members of the United States Armed Forces who served their
12 country during the Vietnam era are still alive today, including more than
13 120,000 Coloradans; and

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

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

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

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

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

33 WHEREAS, The need for a formal recognition of the return of
34 veterans from the Vietnam War is as important now as ever, not only for

1 those veterans who served but for all citizens; and

2 WHEREAS, April 30, 2019, marks the 44th anniversary of the end
3 of the Vietnam War;

4 WHEREAS, 2019 also marks the 50th anniversary of the peak
5 period of American involvement in the Vietnam War; now, therefore,

6 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
7 *Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate*
8 *concurring herein:*

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

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

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

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

19 (4) Encourage all Coloradans to remember the sacrifices made by
20 Vietnam veterans.

21 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
22 to the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; the United
23 Veterans' Committee of Colorado; Project Sanctuary; the United States
24 Vietnamese American Volunteers Alliance; the President of the United
25 States, Donald J. Trump; the honorable Jared Polis, Governor of
26 Colorado; and the Colorado Congressional delegation.