



HJ0015

LRB101 07516 MST 52560 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In the late 1950s and early 1960s, United States  
3 military personnel began serving as military advisors to the  
4 South Vietnamese military in their conflict with North Vietnam;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, As the Vietnam War escalated over the subsequent  
7 decade; Americans, including many Illinoisans, were called to  
8 join the war as the United States implemented a military draft;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, As the war continued, over 58,000 members of the  
11 United States Armed Forces would lose their lives and more than  
12 300,000 were wounded; and

13 WHEREAS, Nearly 3,000 Illinoisans were killed or listed as  
14 missing in action during the Vietnam War; and

15 WHEREAS, Upon returning home, those who served in Vietnam  
16 were met with a vigorous public debate about the involvement of  
17 the United States in the war; and

18 WHEREAS, As these veterans returned home, many of them were  
19 not given the credit and support they deserved for dutifully  
20 serving their country; many were met with vigorous protests and

1 condemnations and received widespread insults by opponents of  
2 the Vietnam War; and

3 WHEREAS, While service members returning home following  
4 World War II and the Korean War were met with homecoming  
5 celebrations, veterans returning from Vietnam were met with  
6 strong opposition that was directed at them rather than the  
7 appropriate decision makers in Washington; and

8 WHEREAS, Many who returned home from the battlefield were  
9 spit on, called killers, and ignored by the American public at  
10 a time when they needed the support of their fellow citizens;  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
14 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we stand united in our strong  
15 support of all military personnel who served and sacrificed  
16 during the Vietnam War and offer our heartfelt and sincere  
17 apology to all Vietnam veterans who were mistreated after  
18 returning home from their service; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we declare November 1, 2019 as "Vietnam  
20 Veterans Recognition Day" in the State of Illinois; and be it  
21 further

1           RESOLVED, That we urge all Illinoisans to show support and  
2           gratitude to all Americans who have worn the uniform of the  
3           United States and who put their lives in danger to defend our  
4           freedoms; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor and the Secretary of  
6           State to instruct that all flags within their purview be  
7           lowered to half-mast on November 1, 2019 as a sign of respect  
8           to all Vietnam veterans; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
10          presented to the Director of the Illinois Department of  
11          Veteran's Affairs, the Illinois Vietnam Veterans of America,  
12          the Illinois Secretary of State, and the Governor of the State  
13          of Illinois.