
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 316 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, DINNIMAN, ARGALL, BAKER, BREWSTER,
BROOKS, COSTA, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, SABATINA,
TEPLITZ, WARD, WHITE, WILEY, YAW, YUDICHAK AND MENSCH,
MARCH 23, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 23, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 30, 2016, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Conflict was fought in Vietnam from 1961
4 to 1975, and it involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in
5 conflict with the United States and South Vietnam; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States became involved in the Vietnam
7 Conflict because policymakers in the United States believed that
8 if South Vietnam fell to a communist government then communism
9 would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia; and

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

12 WHEREAS, As a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on
13 August 2 and 4, 1964, the Congress of the United States
14 overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law
15 88-408) on August 7, 1964, effectively handing over war-making
16 powers to President Lyndon B. Johnson until such time as peace
17 and security had returned to Vietnam; and

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

3 WHEREAS, By the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States
4 troops in Vietnam; and

5 WHEREAS, By 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was
6 reached; and

7 WHEREAS, On January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were
8 signed, requiring the release of all United States prisoners of
9 war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United
10 States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

11 WHEREAS, On March 29, 1973, the United States Armed Forces
12 completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam; and

13 WHEREAS, On March 30, 1973, the last of the United States
14 Armed Forces landed at home; and

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

18 WHEREAS, In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated
19 in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the
20 United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing in
21 action in Vietnam; and

22 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Conflict was an extremely divisive issue
23 among the people of the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, Upon their return home, members of the United States
25 Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United
26 States during the Vietnam Conflict were caught in the crossfire
27 of public debate about the involvement of the United States in
28 the Vietnam Conflict; and

29 WHEREAS, The establishment of "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
30 Day" is an appropriate way to honor those members of the United

1 States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam
2 Conflict; therefore be it
3 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize March 30, 2016, as
4 "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in Pennsylvania.