

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 579 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY MARSHALL, READSHAW, MATZIE, MUSTIO, MURT, ADOLPH, AUMENT, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BOBACK, BOYD, B. BOYLE, BRADFORD, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CLYMER, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALEY, DEASY, DELOZIER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, ELLIS, EVANKOVICH, EVERETT, FARRY, FREEMAN, GABLER, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLEN, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HAHN, HARHAI, HARHART, HARKINS, HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, W. KELLER, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSICO, MASSER, MCGEEHAN, METCALFE, MICCARELLI, MILLARD, MILLER, MIRABITO, MOUL, MURPHY, OBERLANDER, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PEIFER, PERRY, PICKETT, PRESTON, QUINN, RAPP, RAVENSTAHL, REED, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTARSIERO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, CULVER, SCHRODER, SONNEY, STERN, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TOOIL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, WHITE, YOUNGBLOOD AND MICOZZIE, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 22, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 30, 2012, 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

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

3 WHEREAS, As a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on
4 August 2 and 4, 1964, the Congress of the United States
5 overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law
6 88-408) on August 7, 1964, which effectively handed over war-
7 making powers to President Lyndon B. Johnson until such time as
8 peace and security had returned to Vietnam; and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, On March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces
19 completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam; and

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

23 WHEREAS, In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated
24 in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the
25 United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing in
26 action in Vietnam; and

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

29 WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces who served
30 bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam

1 Conflict were caught upon their return home in the crossfire of
2 public debate about the involvement of the United States in the
3 Vietnam Conflict; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
5 honor in the establishment of "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
6 Day" and how it would be an appropriate way to honor those
7 members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam
8 during the Vietnam Conflict; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
10 proclaim March 30, 2012, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"
11 in Pennsylvania.