
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 806 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY STEPHENS, READSHAW, KORTZ, HILL-EVANS, DONATUCCI,
KIM, RYAN, DELLOSO, BURNS, MURT, HOWARD, BARRAR, ROTHMAN,
ULLMAN, SCHMITT, CONKLIN, COX, MALAGARI, POLINCHOCK, ROZZI
AND MACKENZIE, MARCH 10, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 10, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the President and the Congress of the United
2 States recognize naturalized Korean Americans who served
3 during the Vietnam Conflict as veterans of the armed forces
4 of the United States, making these individuals eligible for
5 benefits through the United States Department of Veterans
6 Affairs.

7 WHEREAS, The United States, having recognized the commitment
8 of European allies in the aftermath of World War I and World War
9 II, is expanding recognition for allied forces from the Vietnam
10 era; and

11 WHEREAS, For the duration of the Vietnam Conflict, United
12 States military and paramilitary operations in Southeast Asia
13 involved various allied combatants; and

14 WHEREAS, Lao-Hmong tribe members, in keeping with their
15 warrior culture, served in guerilla units the United States
16 formed in Laos; and

17 WHEREAS, These fighters, recruited and trained by the United
18 States, guarded the Long Tieng air base, rescued downed American

1 pilots and disrupted enemy movements and supplies along the Ho
2 Chi Minh trail; and

3 WHEREAS, The Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000
4 established special naturalization provisions for Hmong refugees
5 from Laos who supported United States forces between February
6 28, 1961, and September 18, 1978; and

7 WHEREAS, The Hmong Veterans' Service Recognition Act, signed
8 in 2018, provided that individuals naturalized under the 2000
9 act were eligible for interment in certain national cemeteries;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, South Korea, our largest allied force, deployed more
12 than 325,000 troops for counterinsurgency, offensive and
13 pacification operations; and

14 WHEREAS, South Korean troops were instrumental in protecting
15 overland supply, helping to retake and hold the line from Cam
16 Ranh Bay to Qui Nhon; and

17 WHEREAS, South Korea entered the war in 1964 and maintained a
18 presence through the final phase; and

19 WHEREAS, Honoring a ceasefire in effect as United States
20 troops exited the region in 1973, South Korean troops incurred
21 casualties during that period; and

22 WHEREAS, Through years of combat, the South Korean nation
23 sustained nearly 11,000 casualties and 5,099 deaths; and

24 WHEREAS, An estimated 3,000 Korean-American veterans of the
25 Vietnam Conflict are excluded from benefits provided by the
26 United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

27 WHEREAS, Granting treatment for combat-related conditions
28 such as posttraumatic stress disorder or Agent Orange exposure
29 and extending eligibility for burial and memorial benefits would
30 rightfully honor their contributions to American security; and

1 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of
2 Pennsylvania affirms that Korean-American veterans of the
3 Vietnam Conflict have earned access to veterans benefits and
4 services, being part of an integral contingent committed to
5 military action along with United States service members;
6 therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania request that the President and the
9 Congress of the United States recognize naturalized Korean
10 Americans who served during the Vietnam Conflict as veterans of
11 the armed forces of the United States, making these individuals
12 eligible for benefits through the United States Department of
13 Veterans Affairs; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
15 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of
16 each house of Congress and each member of Congress from
17 Pennsylvania.