

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's Vietnam War
2 veterans and recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Gulf of
3 Tonkin Resolution.

4 WHEREAS, Conflict and instability in and around Southeast
5 Asia began well before any direct United States military
6 involvement and continued for nearly a decade afterwards; and

7 WHEREAS, Working under the "domino effect" theory, which
8 feared that if one Southeast Asian country fell to communism,
9 many would follow, the United States increased aid to South
10 Vietnam, but stopped short of committing to a large-scale
11 military intervention until 1964; and

12 WHEREAS, In August 1964, the destroyer U.S.S. Maddox reported
13 being fired upon in the Gulf of Tonkin by North Vietnamese
14 torpedo boats; and

15 WHEREAS, August 7, 2014, marked the 50th anniversary of the
16 passage of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which led to the
17 escalation of United States involvement in the Vietnam War; and

18 WHEREAS, By 1969, the peak of United States involvement in

1 the Vietnam War, more than 500,000 United States military
2 personnel were involved in the conflict; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 58,000 servicemen and servicewomen
4 perished and more than 303,500 Americans were wounded during the
5 Vietnam War; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 2,000 American servicemen and servicewomen
7 remain missing in action; and

8 WHEREAS, Opposition to the war led to bitter divisions among
9 Americans, both before and after President Richard Nixon ordered
10 the withdrawal of United States Armed Forces in 1973; and

11 WHEREAS, Seventy-five thousand veterans of the Vietnam War
12 became seriously disabled due to war-related injuries; and

13 WHEREAS, The Vietnam War remains the most divisive conflict
14 in our nation's history; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the
16 veterans of the Vietnam War by recognizing the significant and
17 enduring accomplishments of our nation's veterans; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the
20 escalation of the Vietnam War, the House of Representatives
21 confirm its commitment to preserving the memory of those who
22 made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.