

## AN ACT

1 Designating March 29 of each year as "Welcome Home Vietnam  
2 Veterans Day."

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Welcome Home  
7 Vietnam Veterans Day Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative findings and declarations.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

10 (1) The Vietnam Conflict was fought from 1961 to 1975.

11 (2) The United States became involved in the Vietnam  
12 Conflict because policymakers in the United States believed  
13 that if South Vietnam fell to a Communist government,  
14 Communism would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia.

15 (3) In 1965, there were approximately 80,000 United  
16 States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of about  
17 543,000 troops was reached.

1           (4) More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed  
2 Forces lost their lives in the Vietnam Conflict, and more  
3 than 300,000 were wounded.

4           (5) According to the Commonwealth's military records,  
5 more than 3,400 Pennsylvanians were killed in the Vietnam  
6 Conflict and many more were listed as "missing in action."

7           (6) The uniquely divisive nature of the Vietnam Conflict  
8 in the context of American history and the crossfire of  
9 debate about the country's involvement in the conflict  
10 deprived many members of the United States Armed Forces of  
11 public support and appreciation for their patriotic service.

12           (7) The bravery and service of our country's Vietnam  
13 Conflict veterans should be recognized and honored.

14 Section 3. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

15       (a) Designation.--March 29 of each year is designated as  
16 "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

17       (b) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a  
18 proclamation calling upon all public schools and educational  
19 institutions to observe "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" and  
20 to conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those  
21 involved in the Vietnam Conflict and remembering the sacrifices  
22 they made for their country.

23 Section 4. Effective date.

24       This act shall take effect immediately.