



MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>  
**VIETNAM VETERANS DAY**  
USA



**COALITION OF STATES COUNCIL**  
**STATE OF NEW YORK DELEGATION**

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
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Dear Senator Gillibrand

As of March 1, 2014 some 35 States have enacted are in the process of processing legislation declaring March 29<sup>th</sup> as Vietnam Veterans Day. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first commemoration of March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day by Presidential Proclamation (Copy attached). On March 29, 1973, the last United States **combat** troops left Vietnam which ended America's participation in the war. 2013 was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this significant event, the President and Congress failed to deliver the respect and gratitude by resolution or Presidential Proclamation and for sure not in legislation, even though introduced and passed on to the Judiciary Committee. Another disregard for those who served during the Vietnam War and Era and especially offensive for failing to honor the families that lost a loved during the war and afterward as a consequence of it.

There is a Korean Veterans Day, three days for WWII (D-Day, VJ-Day and Pearl Harbor Day) and then Veterans Day originally for WWI. Having Veterans Day did not stop Congress from honoring and expressing gratitude for the sacrifice and service for those eras.

Hopefully your conscience should guide you in earnest to do the same for the Vietnam War and Era Veterans and their families by passing Senate Bill S.409 , for there should be no bickering since there are no budget implications.

While success has gone considerably well on the State level to commemorate this important date, it has fallen short on a national level. In 2012 there was a Presidential proclamation **designating March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day but limited to** that year, plus a similar proclamation in past years.

Since then we have not been able to get this very special date remembered on a permanent basis..

Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina had introduced Senate Bill 409 to add March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and national observance and was co-sponsored.

Congressman Michael Grimm of Staten Island, NY introduced House Resolution 235 and was co-sponsored.



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A few years back there was a motion to consider the third Friday in September as POW/MIA Recognition Day and was referred to the judiciary committee and that day is now a National Day of Remembrance.

We ask you now to help deliver the support for "The Greatest Citizens " of the Vietnam War and Era Generation. Be the Voice to help Deliver the Honor and Thank You by Establishing National March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day.

Respectfully

**WHY NO to March 30th as date**

- (a) March 30th is tainted because the blood of our nation's defenders was spilled by the North Vietnamese when the Eastertide invasion (Easter Offensive) started on March 30, 1972 and lasted through October 22 of 1972, a complete affront to our goodwill at the peace negotiations.
- (b) The Easter Offensive, and also (Chiến dịch Xuân hè 1972 in Vietnamese) was a military campaign conducted by the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) against the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN, the regular army of South Vietnam) and the United States military.
- (c) The offensive was given a title steeped in Vietnamese history. In 1773 the three Tây Sơn brothers (so-called because of the place of their origin) united a Vietnam divided by civil war and social unrest. The youngest brother, Nguyễn Huệ, then defeated an invading Chinese army on the outskirts of Hanoi in 1788. **This was an obvious 200th anniversary goal to unite Vietnam under Communist rule regardless of the Peace Treaty negotiations.**
- (d) Also on March 30 of 1975, the North Vietnamese again violated the peace accords and disregarded our goodwill and deprived the South Vietnamese people of their right of self determination agreed to by the North. It created despair and brought the death of more of our people while trying to protect and help evacuate the people of the illegally occupied South Vietnam.

**WHY NO to "WELCOME HOME" in name**

Using "Welcome Home" comes across like a "LAST MAN STANDING" tribute and lacks clarity as to whom gratitude and respect should be delivered especially those who gave their lives for our country. This day is a perpetual message on behalf of "THOSE WHO NO LONGER HAVE A VOICE OR A CHOICE" that no other generation will endure the same pain.



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Our newest generation of veterans and nation's defenders will find comfort to know that their sacrifice and service and that of their families will also not be forgotten, many being children/grandchildren of Vietnam War and Era Veterans.

**PETITION FOR LEGISLATION TO THE**  
**SENATE, CONGRESS AND**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Dear Honorable Members of Congress, US Senate and President Obama:

**Whereas**, thirty eight years ago, on March 29, 1973, the last 2,500 troops were withdrawn from South Vietnam thus ending military involvement in what is now the longest war in our country's history, and

**Whereas**, thirty seven years ago, March 29, 1974 was declared Vietnam Veterans Day by Presidential order with the support of Congress, and

**Whereas**, the 58,195 honorable and brave souls who fought and died during the Vietnam War, ones who are missing, and those who died since from the consequences of that war, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation to be expressed on the **29<sup>th</sup> of March** of every year in perpetuity and dedicated as **Vietnam Veterans Day**, the Official Day of Recognition and

**Whereas**, the men and women who served with dedication, honor, and pride during the Vietnam War, both in country and in support of those in harm's way as well as those protecting our freedoms at home and throughout other parts of the world at that time, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

**Whereas**, the families whose loved ones gave their lives for our country during the Vietnam War, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

**Whereas**, the families of those men and women who came home with the physical and emotional wounds of the Vietnam War and committed to a lifetime of care and support for their loved one, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and



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**Whereas**, the fellow citizens who stood by and supported the families of the fallen as well as the Vietnam veterans who returned and their families, without reservation and with loving care and respect, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

**Whereas**, those professionals and volunteers who committed themselves to the loving care and healing of the bodily and emotionally wounded from the Vietnam War at home and have already the utmost gratitude of those they cared for and of their families, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

**Whereas**, the men and women of our Allies who served with dedication, honor, and pride alongside our Nation's defenders during the Vietnam War, both in country and in support of those in harm's way as well as those protecting our freedoms and throughout other parts of the world at that time, deserve the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

**Whereas**, this expression of gratitude and respect to the Vietnam Veterans and their families will also give hope and assurance, to current and future generations of our Nation's Defenders and their respective families, that their sacrifice and service will not be forgotten and deserving of a distinct recognition of the eternal gratitude and respect of this nation, and

**Whereas**, this expression of gratitude and respect for the honorable sacrifice and service by the Vietnam Veteran, past as well as current and future generations of our nation's defenders and their respective families, needs to remain in the hearts and thoughts of our fellow citizens forever, passed on from generation to generation, and

**Whereas** numerous States have already chosen March 29<sup>th</sup> as Vietnam Veterans Day by Legislation and many more states have joined with individual events to honor and thank these brave Veterans and their families for their service to our Great Country,

**We therefore**, ask the United States House of Representatives to support this request by passage of a standalone Legislation declaring March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day in perpetuity and ask the United States Senate to join in the passage of this same standalone Legislation, incorporating the whereas recognitions that are part of this request. We ask the President of the United States to support this legislation. The proposed wording for the legislation follows.

**And** we ask the members of the United States Congress, with President Obama's concurrence, to deliver this long overdue tribute by our nation to those honored in this March 29<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Veterans Day legislation and to have it stand as a distinct symbol of our fellow



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citizens expression of gratitude, and be a beacon of hope for future defenders of our nation and their families.

We remain forever vigilant and in service to our country, the families who lost a loved one during our wars and since, our veterans and the defenders of our nation as well as their families, our fellow citizens and communities.