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THE STATE SENATE
Thursday, February 24, 2005

Senate Joint
Resolution No. 20

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20 - By: CAIN of the Senate and
BLACKBURN of the House.

A Joint Resolution recognizing the flag of the former
Republic of Vietnam as the official flag of the Vietnamese-
American community in the State of Oklahoma; and directing
distribution.

WHEREAS, the people of the former Republic of Vietnam, also
known as South Vietnam, were valiant in their resistance to the
aggression of communist North Vietnam, and thousands of Vietnamese
men and women made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom;
and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the fall of Saigon in 1975, many officers
and enlisted personnel of the former Republic of Vietnam, as well as
teachers, intellectuals, and artists, were imprisoned as enemies of
the state; and

WHEREAS, the current government of Vietnam is a non-democratic
regime that continues to harass, interrogate, and arrest individuals
advocating democracy; and

WHEREAS, the flag of the free Vietnamese people consists of
three horizontal stripes of red upon a field of gold, and this flag
is an eternal symbol of the hope and love of freedom for all people

1 of Vietnamese descent, and especially for the proud future
2 generations of Vietnamese Americans, just as the American flag
3 symbolizes these virtues for citizens across the United States.

4 WHEREAS, since 1948, the red-and-gold-striped flag has a history
5 in Vietnam and is a broader symbol of resilience, freedom, and
6 democracy for the Vietnamese-American community; and

7 WHEREAS, this flag remains as a poignant reminder of the threat
8 of communism and the imperative of remaining vigilant in opposition
9 to tyranny of all forms and to actively support human rights; and

10 WHEREAS, the end of the Vietnam conflict produced an exodus of
11 over two million Vietnamese seeking political asylum in the free
12 world who bravely risked their lives to live under the prosperity of
13 democracy; and

14 WHEREAS, many of these refugees settled in Oklahoma, and
15 thousands of Vietnamese Americans and residents of Vietnamese
16 descent live in the State of Oklahoma.

17 WHEREAS, Oklahoma's Vietnamese-American community has a long
18 history of and makes significant contributions to the cultural,
19 religious, and political realms and the business, economic
20 development and freedom of enterprise of the State of Oklahoma.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

1 THAT the members of the Oklahoma State Legislature recognize the
2 contributions of the Vietnamese-American community to the culture,
3 religion, politics, business, and economic development of the State
4 of Oklahoma.

5 THAT the Vietnamese-Americans in the State of Oklahoma be
6 honored and remembered for their struggle for freedom and human
7 rights.

8 THAT the gold flag with three red stripes be recognized as the
9 official flag of the Vietnamese-American community in the State of
10 Oklahoma.

11 THAT copies of this Resolution be sent to the recognized leaders
12 of the Vietnamese-American community and Vietnamese-American
13 organizations in the State of Oklahoma.

14 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, dated 2-21-05
15 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.