STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 1004

By: Calvey of the House

and

Reynolds of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the contributions of the Vietnamese-American community; directing the state to recognize a certain flag as the flag of the Vietnamese-American community; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the people of the former Republic of 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 defense of freedom; and

WHEREAS, 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 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 on a field of gold, and this flag is an eternal symbol of the hope and love of freedom for all people of Vietnamese descent, just as the American flag symbolizes these virtues for citizens across the United States; and

WHEREAS, dating back to 1948, the red and gold striped flag has a history in Vietnam and is a broader symbol of resilience, freedom, and democracy for the Vietnamese-American community; and

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

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

WHEREAS, many of these refugees settled in Oklahoma, and thousands of Vietnamese Americans and residents of Vietnamese descent live in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma's Vietnamese-American community continues to make significant contributions to the cultural, religious, and political realms and the business and economic development of Oklahoma.

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

THAT we, the members of the Oklahoma Legislature, recognize the contributions of the Vietnamese-American community to the culture, religion, politics, business, and economic development of the state of Oklahoma.

THAT we recognize the gold flag with three red stripes as the flag of the Vietnamese-American community of Oklahoma.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the leaders of the Vietnamese-American community.

50-1-6710 MD 02/16/05