

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1029

By: Blackburn

AS INTRODUCED

A 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 nondemocratic 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 of Vietnamese descent, and especially for the proud future generations of Vietnamese-Americans, just as the American flag symbolizes these virtues for citizens across the United States; and

WHEREAS, since 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 proudly 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 the State of Oklahoma; and

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

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

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes the contributions of the Vietnamese-American community to the culture, religion, politics, business, and economic development of the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives honors the Vietnamese-Americans and remembers their struggle for freedom and human rights.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes the gold flag with three red stripes as the official flag of the Vietnamese-American community in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the recognized leaders of the Vietnamese-American community and the Vietnamese-American organizations in the State of Oklahoma.