STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 37 By: Barrington of the Senate

and

Hardin of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing March 29, 2014, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in Oklahoma; commending and thanking Vietnam veterans for their service and sacrifice; encouraging citizens to participate in "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" celebrations; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, nine million American soldiers fought in the Vietnam War from 1964 to 1975, including 136,000 Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, more than 50,000 soldiers lost their lives during the war and another 30,000 died after returning home because of wounds or illnesses contracted during combat; and

WHEREAS, unlike veterans of previous wars, returning Vietnam veterans were not welcomed by a grateful nation; instead many were ignored or scorned by citizens who wrongly took their anger out on the soldiers rather than leaders who chose to involve American troops in the conflict in Southeast Asia. The psychological issues faced by many Vietnam vets can be traced not simply to what they

experienced in Vietnam but to their experience on their return home; and

WHEREAS, Americans are belatedly embracing Vietnam veterans having come to the realization that those who served were just as brave and honorable as their fathers and uncles who fought in previous conflicts like World War II and Korea; and

WHEREAS, March 29th has been designated as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" by Congress in recognition of the day when the last soldiers left Vietnam in 1972; and

WHEREAS, there are currently seven million Vietnam veterans living across the country and 52,000 reside in Oklahoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes March 29, 2014, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commends and thanks Vietnam veterans for their tremendous service and sacrifice.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature encourages citizens to participate in "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" celebrations in their area.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of

Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and the Military Department.

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