

Fort William Henry Harrison Museum Foundation  
and  
Montana Military Museum  
P.O. Box 125,  
Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125  
March 06, 2023

FTWHHMF/MMM- Public Information Press Advisory

**This is a Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Event sponsored by The Montana Military Museum, the Montana Department of Military Affairs, Fort Harrison Veterans Administration & Hospital, American Legion Post #2 (Lewis & Clark Post), and the Oro Fino Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (See [www.vietnam50th.org](http://www.vietnam50th.org).)**  
***“Proud partner(s) with The U.S. A. Vietnam War Commemoration”***

SUBJECT: Media Advisory Concerning *Montana Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day*, March 29, 2023, (The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this event signaling the implementation of the Paris Peace Accords signed January 23, 1973.

Montana a Proud partner with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration, is commemorating *Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day* on **March 29, 2023** throughout the State. In 2011 the 62<sup>nd</sup> Montana Legislature enacted into law House Bill 255, entitled, “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”. The act established that annually on March 30th that Montana should recognize and thank its Vietnam Veterans with appropriate tributes.

This date was chosen based on the language of the 1973 Vietnam Peace Accords, the United States agreed to remove the remaining military units from the Republic of Vietnam within 60 days of signing that document. Approximately 5,500 personnel remained in Vietnam on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1973. Based on travel, March 30<sup>th</sup> was the arrival date in the US. See Enclosure 1 to this Media Advisory for the full Text of House Bill 255, (62<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, 2011).

//**Most Important!!!** Public Law 115-15—March 28, 2017, amended title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of flag on National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Be it enacted by the senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, Section 1, Short Title. This Act may be cited as the “Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017”. Sec. 2. **Display of Flag on National Vietnam Veterans Day.**//

Section 6(d) of title 4, United States Code, is amended by inserting “National Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29;” after “third Monday in February;”. Approved March 28, 2017. Enclosure 2

**This effectively moved the official date of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day to March 29, 2023.**

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STATE-WIDE:

Montana state/community level event(s) are recommended to recognize the over 36,000 Montana men and women who served during the era many in the Republic of Vietnam from 1959-1975. 268 Montana men paid the ultimate price either killed in action (KIA) or died from non-hostile causes during this period. Twenty-two (22) Montanans were recognized as Prisoners of War (POW) and/or Missing in Action (MIA). Today five of our POW/MIA's have been returned home and efforts to locate and return the remainder go on to day. Currently there are approximately 35,105 Vietnam men and women veterans who call Montana home. This is as of September 2012 (reference VA.Gov statistics). This number includes Vietnam veterans who have moved to the Big Sky after the close of the Vietnam War.

A program is being planned to be conducted at the Montana State Capital Complex on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This program will be a combination of Veterans Honor Walk around the Capital complex followed by a ceremony at the Freedom Tree where the Vietnam POW-MIA plaque, dedicated on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015, is located. Program specifics are being developed.

Bill Rich, US Navy Seabee, Vietnam Veteran 1968-71, Helena, MT , Keynote Speaker

***Join the nation...thank a Vietnam veteran!*** We encourage all Montanans to help recognized our Vietnam Veterans on this day through recognition events of your choosing. Information as to the specifics of the Montana State Capital event can be provided upon request. Please give this information the widest dissemination to insure that a maximum effort is forthcoming on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank You for getting this information out to the Public!

Sponsoring VN 50 Partner: Montana Military Museum  
P.O. Box 125  
Fort Harrison, Montana 59636-0125  
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Web Site: [www.montanamilitarymuseum.org](http://www.montanamilitarymuseum.org)  
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Points of Contacts: Gale Kramlick 406-502-1696 or Jane Hamman, 406-933-8203  
Ray Read, 458-9847 or 406-235-0290 2023 Co-Chair  
Patrick McCain, 443-7527 - 2019 Honorary Co-Chair

Prepared By: Raymond K. Read, Colonel, USA (retired),  
Director, Montana Military Museum,  
50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam War Commemorative Committee.

Enclosure 1 House Bill 255  
Enclosure 2 Public Law 115-15,

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Enclosure 1



HOUSE BILL NO. 255

INTRODUCED BY F. WILMER, HAWKS, WELBORN, BOLAND, SKATTUM, MCCHESENEY, HINER, SESSO, PRICE, O'NEIL, MCNALLY, SANDS, SWANSON, DRISCOLL, PEASE-LOPEZ, CONNELL, MACDONALD, FLYNN, FUREY, HUNTER, MILLER, SCHMIDT, MCNUTT, MORE, MALEK, MCCLAFFERTY, MEHLHOFF, B. BENNETT, NOONAN, KARY, MCNIVEN, HANDS, MENAHAN, RANDALL, BELCOURT, SQUIRES, REINHART, ARNTZEN, REICHNER, DI. BARRETT, COURT, HENDRICK, HOLLENBAUGH, O'HARA, F. SMITH, ROBERTS, LAVIN, SKEES, PHILLIPS, YATES, K. WILLIAMS, HANSEN, GIBSON, LEWIS, JENT, TROPILA, D. ANKNEY, S. AUGARE, DEBBY BARRETT, A. BLEWETT, G. BRANAE, R. BRODEHL, T. BROWN, M. CAFERRO, J. ESSMANN, L. EVANS, K. GILLAN, E. GREEF, B. HAMLETT, J. KEANE, K. KERNS, J. KNOX, A. KNUDSEN, B. LAKE, M. MILLER, J. PETERSON, R. RIPLEY, S. SMALL, W. STAHL, S. STEWART-PEREGOY, K. VAN DYK, C. VINCENT, D. WANZENRIED, J. WINDY BOY, A. WITTICH, R. ZINKE

AN ACT DESIGNATING MARCH 30 AS WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA.

WHEREAS, the United States became involved in a war in the former Republic of South Vietnam to stop the spread of communism to that country; and

WHEREAS, by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 members of the armed forces of the United States were serving in the former South Vietnam; and

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WHEREAS, more than 58,000 members of the armed forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members were wounded; and

WHEREAS, by March 30, 1973, combat and combat support units had left Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and caused a generation of veterans to be criticized for participation in a war that was the official policy of four presidential administrations in the United States government, a policy that Vietnam veterans themselves could not control; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day would provide an appreciation that Vietnam veterans deserve for their service but did not receive at the time of their homecoming; and

WHEREAS, establishment of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day would also promote awareness of the faithful service of Vietnam veterans, promote awareness of their contributions to the country, and recognize the assistance that veterans of the war in Vietnam are providing to the returning veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in recovering from their wounds, both seen and unseen, and in supporting the reintegration of these new veterans back into civilian life.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1. Welcome home Vietnam veterans day.** There is established a welcome home Vietnam veterans day for the state of Montana. The welcome home Vietnam veterans day is March 30 of each year and commemorates the day in 1973 when all combat units and combat support units arrived home from the former South Vietnam.

**Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

**Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 1, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 1, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

- END -

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Enclosure 2

[115th Congress Public Law 15]  
[From the U.S. Government Publishing Office]

[[Page 131 STAT. 79]]

Public Law 115-15 115th Congress

An Act

To amend title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on National Vietnam War Veterans Day. <<NOTE: Mar. 28, 2017 - [S. 305]>>

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, <<NOTE: Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017. 4 USC 1 note.>>

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. DISPLAY OF FLAG ON NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY.

Section 6(d) of title 4, United States Code, is amended by inserting "National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29;" after "third Monday in February;".

Approved March 28, 2017.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY--S. 305:

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 163 (2017):

Feb. 3, considered and passed Senate.

Mar. 21, considered and passed House.