**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE PALMETTO STATE’S COURAGEOUS VETERANS WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM WAR AND TO DECLARE MARCH 29, 2018, AS “WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, across this great nation, various celebrations are held each year to commemorate the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans and their families. Such celebrations are part of a national effort to recognize the servicemen and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home from Vietnam more than forty years ago. In order to show support for these unsung heroes, most states now celebrate “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” on March 29 or 30 of each year; and

Whereas, further, on March 28, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017. This act officially recognizes March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day annually. The act also encourages the display of the United States flag every year on March 29; and

Whereas, although there is some debate, March 29 is generally viewed as the most appropriate date for honoring our Vietnam veterans since on that date in 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil. It is also the date President Richard Nixon chose for the first Vietnam Veterans Day in 1974; and

Whereas, by setting aside March 29 as a day to focus on our Vietnam veterans, we as a people can show our unified gratitude for their service and the sacrifices these veterans made on our behalf; and

Whereas, it is therefore entirely appropriate for the South Carolina House to encourage communities throughout the Palmetto State to honor our Vietnam veterans on March 29 through sponsorship of appropriate events, such as the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans breakfast being held on that date at Fort Mill’s Sun City Carolina Lakes, hosted by Sun City’s Honoring Our Veterans Club; and

Whereas, out of the 2.7 million United States servicemembers who served in Vietnam, more than fifty‑eight thousand were killed, and more than three hundred four thousand were wounded; and

Whereas, with appreciation and gratitude, the House takes great pleasure in saluting the members of the United States Armed Forces who served their country during the Vietnam War. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and honor the Palmetto State’s courageous veterans who served in the Vietnam War and declare March 29, 2018, as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Sun City Carolina Lakes Honoring Our Veterans Club.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑