

# Senate Bill 74

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Governor John A. Kitzhaber for Department of Veterans' Affairs)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates March 30 of every year as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to Vietnam veterans.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds:**

5 (1) **In 2009, the United States Congress, by separate Senate and House Resolutions, de-**  
6 **clared that a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day should be established.**

7 (2) **The Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North**  
8 **Vietnam and the Vietcong in conflict with the United States and South Vietnam.**

9 (3) **The United States became involved in Vietnam because policymakers in the United**  
10 **States believed that if South Vietnam fell to a communist government, communism would**  
11 **spread throughout the rest of southeast Asia.**

12 (4) **Members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the**  
13 **South Vietnamese in 1961.**

14 (5) **As a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and August 4, 1964, the United**  
15 **States overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (P.L. 88-408), on August 7, 1964,**  
16 **which effectively handed over the war-making powers to President Lyndon Johnson until**  
17 **such time as "peace and security" had returned to Vietnam.**

18 (6) **In 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam and, by 1969, a peak of**  
19 **approximately 543,000 troops was reached.**

20 (7) **On January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all**  
21 **United States prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States**  
22 **Armed Forces.**

23 (8) **On March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of**  
24 **combat troops.**

25 (9) **More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in**  
26 **Vietnam and more than 300,000 were wounded.**

27 (10) **In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia**  
28 **to commemorate those members of the United States Armed Forces who died or were de-**  
29 **clared missing in action in Vietnam.**

30 (11) **The Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United**  
31 **States.**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       **(12) Upon their return home, members of the United States Armed Forces who served**  
2 **bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were caught in the**  
3 **crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United States in the war.**

4       **(13) The establishment of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day is an appropriate way**  
5 **to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during**  
6 **the Vietnam War.**

7       **SECTION 2. March 30 of every year is designated as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans**  
8 **Day to honor veterans of the Vietnam War.**

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