

1 SR54  
2 139635-1  
3 By Senators Allen, Taylor, Holtzclaw, Williams, Reed,  
4 Singleton, Waggoner, Marsh, Bedford, Pittman, Beasley, Beason,  
5 Blackwell, Brewbaker, Brooks, Bussman, Coleman, Dial, Dunn,  
6 Fielding, Figures, Glover, Holley, Irons, Keahey, McGill, Orr,  
7 Ross, Sanders, Sanford, Scofield, Smith, Smitherman, Ward, and  
8 Whatley  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 22-MAR-12

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7  
8 RECOGNIZING VIETNAM VETERANS DAY.  
9

10 WHEREAS, it was 39 years ago, on March 29, 1973,  
11 that America withdrew its last 2,500 troops of young men and  
12 women from the battlefields of Vietnam and, since the end of  
13 that bitter conflict faraway in Southeast Asia, a generation  
14 of Americans has come of age and has begun to understand the  
15 significance of the war; and

16 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was a long, wrenching  
17 experience for our nation, for those who served as well as  
18 their families; the United States presence lasted more than 15  
19 years -- from the arrival of the first soldiers in the late  
20 1950s to the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, as North  
21 Vietnamese troops rolled into the capital of South Vietnam;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the statistics from the war tell a grim  
24 story: more than 3.4 million were deployed to Southeast Asia;  
25 2.7 million served in the designated war zone; more than  
26 58,000 were killed in the theater of operation; 153,000 were

1 non-mortally wounded; and nearly 1,700 are still unaccounted  
2 for, almost four decades later; and

3 WHEREAS, throughout the history of our state and  
4 nation, countless brave individuals answered the call to  
5 patriotic duty, and Alabamians have had many of their sons and  
6 daughters risk their lives, while many others made the  
7 ultimate sacrifice; and

8 WHEREAS, of the names on the Vietnam Memorial Wall  
9 in our nation's capital, 1,207 are from the great State of  
10 Alabama; and

11 WHEREAS, with indomitable spirit and fortitude,  
12 these noble veterans endured particularly harsh conditions and  
13 illegal, inhumane treatment, and they are remembered for their  
14 selfless service and are appropriately honored by the State of  
15 Alabama for having fulfilled their duty with the highest  
16 degree of valor -- and those who lost their lives are likewise  
17 commemorated -- as they gave of themselves in the name of  
18 freedom and the rights of all Americans; and

19 WHEREAS, the people of Alabama have the utmost  
20 respect for the Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, and we pay  
21 tribute to them for their valiant efforts, reflective of the  
22 strength and character they demonstrate today, and we welcome  
23 the opportunity to acknowledge and thank them for their  
24 defense of global freedom and democracy; and

25 WHEREAS, proudly serving with allegiance to the  
26 ideals that define our great country, our Vietnam Veterans  
27 have been integral to preserving our cherished way of life,

1 and they continue to inspire us with their own lives of  
2 personal, professional, and military accomplishment; now  
3 therefore,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF  
5 ALABAMA, That it is fitting that all Alabamians extend  
6 admiration and heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifices of our  
7 Vietnam Veterans and for their meaningful contributions to our  
8 nation, our state, and to their home communities, and it is  
9 directed that a copy of this resolution be provided for  
10 appropriate presentation in recognition of Vietnam Veterans  
11 Day on March 30, 2012.