

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 151

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 163

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 151—Relative to Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Week.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 19, 2008.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 151, Cook. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Week.

This measure would recognize December 10 through December 14, 2008, as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Week.

WHEREAS, In 2007, the United States Congress, by separate Senate and House Resolutions declared that a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day should be established; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in conflict with the United States and South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, The United States became involved in Vietnam because policymakers in the United States believed that if South Vietnam fell to a communist government, communism would spread throughout the rest of southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and August 4, 1964, the United States Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 99-408), on August 7, 1964, which effectively handed over the war-making powers to President Johnson until such time as “peace and security” had returned to Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969 a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached; and

WHEREAS, On January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, On March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the United

States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were caught upon their return home in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Week would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature concurred that Assembly Concurrent Resolution 64, by Assembly Member Ted Lieu, would commemorate the upcoming 20-year anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 2008; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of the 20-year anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial will commence on December 10, 2008, with the reading of the names of the 5,822 Californians who gave their lives in defense of their country; and

WHEREAS, On December 13, 2008, there will be a parade and a dedication ceremony and the 20-year anniversary celebration shall end on December 14, 2008, with a sunrise POW/MIA ceremony; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council, and the California Department of Veterans Affairs are jointly sponsoring and conducting the ceremonies from December 10 through December 14, 2008, in order to ensure the appropriate honors for California's fallen heroes; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature declares December 10 through December 14, 2008, to be Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Week; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.