

House Resolution

No. 33

Introduced by Assembly Member Jones

August 4, 2010

House Resolution No. 33—Relative to Vietnam War era Hmong soldiers.

1 WHEREAS, From 1961 to 1975, during the Vietnam War, the
2 United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) ran a covert
3 counterinsurgency operation in Laos that became known as the
4 Secret War; and

5 WHEREAS, The CIA recruited Hmong individuals from Laos
6 to help fight the communists; and

7 WHEREAS, The Hmong soldiers fought shoulder-to-shoulder
8 with American soldiers; and

9 WHEREAS, The Hmong were recruited initially to shield Laos
10 from communist takeover, and were later instructed to interdict
11 convoys of supplies on the Ho Chi Minh Trail; and

12 WHEREAS, These young Hmong earned a reputation as
13 capable, loyal, and brave fighters, and their service in combat
14 proved to match the best guerrilla fighters in the world; and

15 WHEREAS, Many Hmong soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice
16 in service to our country, and our nation owes a debt of gratitude
17 to them; and

18 WHEREAS, These Hmong soldiers played an important and
19 unique role in United States military history; and

20 WHEREAS, About 130,000 ethnic Hmong moved to the United
21 States after the 1975 communist takeover as political refugees;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, It is fitting that the service of Hmong veterans be
2 honored with burial benefits in our national cemeteries; and

3 WHEREAS, House Resolution 5879 would authorize the
4 Secretary of Veterans Affairs to inter in national cemeteries
5 individuals who served in combat support of the Armed Services
6 of the United States in the Kingdom of Laos from 1961 to 1975;
7 now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California,* That the
9 Assembly of the State of California respectfully requests the
10 Congress of the United States to pass, and the President to sign,
11 House Resolution 5879, which would authorize the Secretary of
12 Veterans Affairs to inter in national cemeteries individuals who
13 served in combat support of the Armed Services of the United
14 States in the Kingdom of Laos from 1961 to 1975; and be it further

15 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
16 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
17 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President
18 pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and each Senator and
19 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
20 States.