

## CHAPTER 22

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**GOVERNMENT - STATE**


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**SENATE BILL 21-024**

BY SENATOR(S) Jaquez Lewis and Rankin, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cooke, Coram, Danielson, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hisey, Holbert, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Pettersen, Priola, Scott, Simpson, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Story, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger, Garcia;  
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Sullivan, Arndt, Bacon, Baisley, Benavidez, Bernett, Bird, Bockenfeld, Bradfield, Caraveo, Catlin, Cutter, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Hooton, Jackson, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Lontine, Luck, Lynch, McCluskie, McCormick, McKean, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Ortiz, Pelton, Pico, Ransom, Rich, Ricks, Roberts, Sandridge, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Beber, Van Winkle, Weissman, Will, Williams, Woodrow, Woog, Young, Garnett.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE THIRTIETH DAY OF MARCH AS A COMMEMORATIVE STATE HOLIDAY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESIGNATING THE THIRTIETH DAY OF MARCH AS "WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY".**

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) The Vietnam war was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in conflict with United States armed forces, allies of the United States, and South Vietnam;

(b) During this period, more than two million seven hundred thousand American soldiers, both volunteers and draftees, served tours of duty in Vietnam, with a total of more than nine million active duty military personnel, in what was an extremely long, difficult, and complex war;

(c) On January 27, 1973, an agreement was reached to end the war and, on March 30, 1973, the United States armed forces completed its withdrawal of combat troops;

(d) More than fifty-eight thousand members of the United States armed forces, including six hundred twenty-three Coloradans, lost their lives in Vietnam and more

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

than three hundred thousand members were wounded;

(e) In addition, more than two thousand five hundred members of the United States armed forces were listed as prisoners of war or missing in action, including forty-one Coloradans, twenty-four of whom remain unaccounted for;

(f) Members of the United States armed forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam war were caught on their return home in the crossfire of an extremely divisive public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam war, which deprived many of those members of public support and appreciation of their patriotic service;

(g) In 1982, the first part of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, the Memorial Wall, was dedicated in the District of Columbia, followed by the dedication of The Three Servicemen in 1984 and the Vietnam Women's Memorial in 1993, to commemorate those members of the United States armed forces who died or were declared missing in action in the Vietnam war; and

(h) The designation of a "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" is an appropriate way for the state to thank and honor its members of the United States armed forces for their service and sacrifice during the Vietnam war.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-11-114 as follows:

**24-11-114. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.** THE THIRTIETH DAY OF MARCH IN EACH YEAR IS KNOWN AS "WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY", AND APPROPRIATE OBSERVANCE MAY BE HELD BY THE PUBLIC AND IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE STATE IN TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF VIETNAM VETERANS.

**SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: March 30, 2021