

**First Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 21-0466.01 Megan Waples x4348

SENATE BILL 21-024

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jaquez Lewis,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Sullivan,

Senate Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill designates March 30 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" and allows for appropriate observance by the public and in all public schools in tribute to the service and sacrifice of Vietnam

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

veterans.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (f) Members of the United States armed forces who served
24 bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam war were
25 caught on their return home in the crossfire of an extremely divisive

1 public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam
2 war, which deprived many of those members of public support and
3 appreciation of their patriotic service;

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

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

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

16 **24-11-114. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.** THE
17 THIRTIETH DAY OF MARCH IN EACH YEAR IS KNOWN AS "WELCOME HOME
18 VIETNAM VETERANS DAY", AND APPROPRIATE OBSERVANCE MAY BE HELD
19 BY THE PUBLIC AND IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE STATE IN TRIBUTE TO
20 THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF VIETNAM VETERANS.

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