

JAN 11 2013

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, nine million American soldiers fought in the Vietnam War from 1964 to 1975 including 136,000 Oklahomans; and

Whereas, more than 50,000 soldiers lost their lives during the war and another 30,000 died after returning home because of wounds or illnesses contracted during combat; and

Whereas, unlike veterans of previous wars, returning Vietnam veterans were not welcomed by a grateful nation, instead many were ignored or scorned by citizens who wrongly took their anger out on the soldiers rather than leaders who chose to involve American troops in the conflict in Southeast Asia. The psychological issues faced by many Vietnam vets can be traced not simply to what they experienced in Vietnam, but to their experience on their return home; and

Whereas, Americans are belatedly embracing Vietnam veterans having come to the realization that those who served were just as brave and honorable as their fathers and uncles who fought in previous conflicts like World War II and Korea; and

Whereas, March 29 has been designated as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" by Congress in recognition of the day when the last soldiers left Vietnam in 1972; and

Whereas, there are currently seven million Vietnam veterans living across the country and 52,000 reside in Oklahoma;

Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2013 as

"Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day"

in the State of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 10th day of January, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and thirteen, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and fifth year.



ATTEST:

Assistant SECRETARY OF STATE

Michelle R. Day

Mary Fallin
GOVERNOR

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