



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, it was 51 years ago, on March 29, 1973, that the United States withdrew its last 2,500 troops from the battlefields of Vietnam and, since the end of that war, a generation of Americans has come of age and come to understand its significance and the heroic contributions and sacrifices of those who served; and

Whereas, the Vietnam War was one of our Nation's longest, with the first American soldiers arriving in the 1950s and the last Americans evacuated from the United States Embassy, with the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975; and

Whereas, like other wars, the Vietnam War was a difficult experience for all Americans, especially Service Members and their families, and at its end after more than a decade of involvement, the statistics were staggering: over 3.4 million were deployed to Southeast Asia; 2.7 million served in the designated war zone; over 58,000 were killed in the theater of operation; 153,000 were non-mortally wounded; and today, nearly five decades later, at least 1,600 service members are still unaccounted for; and

Whereas, of the names listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in our Nation's Capital, 4,119 are those of courageous individuals from our State who went off to fight half a world away, only never to return; and while many more did return from the war, they sadly did not receive the welcome home and respect they deserved; and

Whereas, we will never forget the service members comprising the proud ranks of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, who went off to Vietnam to honorably defend our Nation and its principles of freedom and democracy, and are forever thankful to all of our State's Vietnam Veterans for their service – those who made the ultimate sacrifice, those who came home physically and emotionally scarred, and those who returned home safely to their loved ones; and

Whereas, like so many others who answered the call to serve throughout the centuries, our Vietnam Veterans are inspiring reminders of the patriotism, spirit, and courage of all who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces; New Yorkers everywhere pay tribute to them, extending our admiration and heartfelt gratitude for such meaningful contributions to our Nation, this State, and their home communities;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2024 as

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twelfth day
of March in the year two thousand twenty-four.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh