



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, throughout the history of our state and nation, countless brave individuals have answered the call to patriotic duty, including Vietnam veterans who endured unspeakable hardships and risked their lives fighting for the ideals of democracy; and

Whereas, American involvement in the Vietnam War—one of the longest military conflicts in America's history—began with the arrival of United States military personnel in South Vietnam in the 1950s and ended with the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, when the last Americans were evacuated from the United States Embassy; and

Whereas, during this long and difficult war, American involvement escalated to staggering statistics: more than 3.4 million personnel were deployed to Southeast Asia; 2.7 million served in the designated war zone; over 58,000 were killed in the theatre of operation; 153,000 were non-mortally wounded; and nearly 1,600 service members are still missing in action almost four decades later; and

Whereas, of the names listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in our nation's capital, 4,119 are those of courageous New Yorkers who fought and never returned; we recognize and thank all of our state's Vietnam veterans for their service — those who made the ultimate sacrifice, those who came home physically or emotionally scarred, and those who returned home safely to their loved ones; and

Whereas, we have not forgotten and we will never forget the men and women who served honorably in the Vietnam War, as so many others who answered the call to serve in previous and subsequent wars; the selfless service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans is an inspiring reminder of the patriotism, spirit, and courage of all who serve in our nation's Armed Forces; and

Whereas, the last 2,500 American combat troops were withdrawn from South Vietnam on March 29, 1973, and we solemnly mark the anniversary of this day and reflect on its significance for past, present, and future generations;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2026, as

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

in the Empire State.

G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eighteenth day
of March in the year two thousand twenty-six.



Kathy Hochul

Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh