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lives fighting for the ideals of democracy; it was on March 29, 1973, that the last 2,500 American combat troops were withdrawn from the battlefields of Vietnam, and we solemnly commemorate the 43rd anniversary of this day and reflect on its significance for past, present, and future generations; 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: 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; today, nearly four decades later, more than 1,600 are still unaccounted for; and

Whereas, of the names listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in our nation's capital, 4,126 are those of courageous young New Yorkers who went off to fight half a world away, never to return; 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 – nor will we ever forget – the men and women who served so honorably in the Vietnam War, like 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;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2016 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 twenty-second day of March in the year two thousand sixteen.

STATE OF NEW YORK · EXCELSIOR · EXECUTIVE PRIVY SEAL

Governor

Secretary to the Governor