



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on January 12, 1962, United States Army pilots lifted more than 1,000 South Vietnamese service members over jungle and underbrush to capture a National Liberation Front stronghold near Saigon; and

WHEREAS, Operation Chopper marked America's first combat mission against the Viet Cong, and the beginning of one of our longest and most challenging wars; and

WHEREAS, through more than a decade of conflict that tested the fabric of our Nation, the service of our men and women in uniform stood true. Fifty-six years after that fateful mission, we honor the more than 3 million Americans who served, we pay tribute to those we have laid to rest, and we reaffirm our dedication to showing a generation of veterans the respect and support of a grateful Nation and Territory; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War is a story of service members of different backgrounds, colors, and creeds who came together to complete a daunting mission. It is a story of Americans from every corner of our Nation and Territory who left the warmth of their families to serve the country they loved. It is a story of patriots who braved the line of fire, who cast themselves into harm's way to save a friend, who fought hour after hour, day after day to preserve the liberties we hold dear. From Ia Drang to Hue, they won every major battle of the war and upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, eleven years of combat left their imprint on a generation. Thousands returned home bearing shrapnel and scars; missing limbs and spirits broken and still more were burdened by the invisible wounds of post-traumatic stress, of Agent Orange, of memories that would never fade; and

WHEREAS, more than 58,000 laid down their lives in service to our Nation and Territories. Now and forever, their names are etched into two faces of black granite, a lasting memorial to those who bore conflict's greatest cost; and

WHEREAS, our veterans answered our country's call and served with honor, and on March 29, 1973, the last of our troops left Vietnam. Yet, in one of the war's most profound tragedies, many of these men and women came home to be shunned or neglected -- to face treatment unbefitting their courage and a welcome unworthy of their example. We must never let this happen again; and


WHEREAS, Today, we reaffirm one of our most fundamental obligations: to show all who have worn the uniform of the United States the respect and dignity they deserve, and to honor their sacrifice by serving them as well as they served us. Half a century after those helicopters swept off the ground and into the annals of history, we pay tribute to the fallen, the missing, the wounded, the millions who served, and the millions more who awaited their return. Our Nation and Territories stand stronger for their service, and on Vietnam Veterans Day, we honor their proud legacy with our deepest gratitude; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I Albert Bryan Jr., Governor of the United States of the Virgin Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Organic Act of 1954, as amended, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2020, as Vietnam War Veterans Day. I call upon all Americans and the People of our Virgin Islands to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that commemorate the 58th year anniversary of the Vietnam War.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to be affixed at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, this 29 day of March, 2020.




Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:

Tregenza A. Roach
Lieutenant Governor