



State of New York
Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, as we honor all of the men and women who, throughout history, served in our nation's armed forces, New York State is proud to officially mark the re-opening of the Vietnam Memorial Gallery, located on the Empire State Plaza in our great Capital City of Albany, and join in the national commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, the dedication of the New York State Vietnam Memorial came two years after the National Vietnam Memorial was dedicated in November of 1982, and this historic occasion brought thousands of Vietnam War veterans to what was only the second state memorial specifically conceived and constructed to pay tribute to our Vietnam veterans, to chronicle the history of this long and difficult conflict, and to highlight various aspects of the war through exhibits and displays; and

Whereas, it was at dawn on the morning of May 26, 1984 that formal dedication ceremonies of the New York State Vietnam Memorial began with a listing of the names of over 4,000 New Yorkers lost in the war, followed by the official dedication proudly made by Governor Mario M. Cuomo; and

Whereas, with the re-opening of the New York State Vietnam Memorial, we are reminded of those 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 remember the men and women who so honorably served during more than a decade of fighting in the challenging terrains of Southeast Asia, where they faced extraordinary and unprecedented dangers; we will never forget their sacrifices in the name of freedom, and we value their continued service to their fellow veterans today, as they embody the motto of the Vietnam Veterans of America: "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another";

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2012 through November 11, 2025 as the

COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VIETNAM WAR

throughout the Empire State, in accordance with the officially designated national period of observance, with a special expression of gratitude to our Vietnam veterans for their service.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this seventh day of January in the year two thousand thirteen.

Governor

Lawrence Schwartz
Secretary to the Governor