

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, We salute our brave Vietnam Veterans who, in service to our Nation and in defense of liberty, fought gallantly against the spread of communism and defended the Vietnamese people; and,

Whereas, We embrace our responsibility to help our Vietnam Veterans and their families heal from the heavy tolls of war. We remember the more than 58,000 men and women whose names are memorialized on a black granite wall in our Nation's Capital for having borne the heaviest cost of war; and,

Whereas, More than 27,000 South Dakotans served valiantly under difficult circumstances during the Vietnam War and 210 made the ultimate sacrifice; and,

Whereas, We also pay tribute to all brave patriots who suffered as prisoners of war, and we stand steadfast in our commitment not to rest until we account for the 1,253 heroes who have not yet returned to American soil; and,

Whereas, The Vietnam War is a story of service members of different backgrounds, races, and creeds who came together to complete a daunting mission. It is a story of Americans from every corner of our Nation who left the warmth of family 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; and,

Whereas, We applaud the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans service organizations, and government entities that have publicly and personally thanked and honored these heroes during the National Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War; and,

Whereas, By South Dakota statute, March 30 has been designated as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, a day to pay tribute to the fallen, the missing, the wounded, the millions who served, and the millions more who awaited their return:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 30, 2018, as

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eighteen.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State