

---

**SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8021**

---

**State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2010 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Swecker, Shin, Honeyford, Hobbs, Jacobsen, Oemig, Rockefeller, Regala, Hewitt, Kline, McAuliffe, Kilmer, and Roach

Read first time 01/19/10.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1            TO THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE GREGOIRE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF  
2 WASHINGTON, AND TO THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND VETERANS' ADVISORY  
3 BOARD OF EACH COUNTY, AND TO EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF  
4 WASHINGTON:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8            WHEREAS, Thousands of Washington State residents served in the  
9 Vietnam War and more than 1,100 did not return home to their families;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, South Vietnamese soldiers fought bravely with American  
12 soldiers in defense of freedom and democracy in Vietnam and throughout  
13 the world; and

14           WHEREAS, Countless South Vietnamese soldiers died in that struggle  
15 or spent years imprisoned or persecuted in Vietnam after the war; and

16           WHEREAS, 60,000 Vietnamese-Americans now live in Washington State;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, The majority of these are soldiers of the Republic of  
19 South Vietnam and their families who fled Vietnam after the war or

1 immigrated under the Orderly Departure Program for South Vietnam  
2 veterans and their families; and

3 WHEREAS, Vietnamese refugees in Washington still grieve for their  
4 war dead and honor their veterans but lack a suitable memorial in  
5 Vietnam or Washington State; and

6 WHEREAS, The Washington State Vietnam Veterans Memorial was  
7 dedicated in 1987, followed by the addition and dedication of a plaque  
8 in 1997 to honor the brave men and women who never truly made it home  
9 from Vietnam, or have since died as a result of their military service  
10 during the Vietnam War; and

11 WHEREAS, Annual Memorial Day observances draw hundreds of visitors  
12 to the Washington State Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Capitol to pay  
13 tribute to our fallen servicemembers; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to the traditional observances which honor  
15 United States service members, the Vietnamese American Community is  
16 also drawn to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as a place to honor their  
17 fallen family members and friends who bravely fought to defend the  
18 ideals of freedom and democracy; and

19 WHEREAS, In November 2009, 36 years after the end of the Vietnam  
20 War, military veterans from both the United States of America and the  
21 Republic of South Vietnam came together to honor each other and foster  
22 a spirit of cooperation and partnership aimed at honoring all  
23 servicemembers who paid the ultimate price in defense of freedom and  
24 democracy; and

25 WHEREAS, This meeting furthered the mutual respect for all men and  
26 women of these two countries, who together have a common goal of  
27 remembering the legacy of their sacrifice; and

28 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans Committee of Washington has been  
29 formed to recognize the contributions of the Republic of South Vietnam  
30 soldiers who fought alongside the United States by proposing a series  
31 of three flag poles at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol  
32 Campus, to include a plaque at the base honoring and remembering the  
33 Republic of South Vietnam soldiers who lost their lives;

34 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully urge that the  
35 executive branch of the state of Washington and the legislative  
36 authorities of each county promote a statewide effort to encourage  
37 Vietnam veterans to work with the Washington State Department of  
38 Veterans Affairs and the Vietnam Veterans Committee of Washington to

1 plan appropriate opportunities for joint ceremonies and events bringing  
2 these two groups of veterans together and fostering a spirit of mutual  
3 respect and cooperation, and to propose other means of jointly honoring  
4 and supporting the Republic of South Vietnam and American veterans of  
5 the Vietnam War.

6 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
7 transmitted to the Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State  
8 of Washington, the legislative authority and veterans' advisory board  
9 of each county, and each member of Congress from the State of  
10 Washington.

--- END ---