

Texas Vietnam Veteran's Day

by Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa & Representative Wayne Smith

Today, as we observe Texas Vietnam Veteran's Day, we remember the sacrifice of the 58,000 Americans who answered our nation's call to duty. The Vietnam War is the longest military conflict in United States history with more than 3,000,000 Americans serving in Southeast Asia. An additional 304,000 Americans were wounded during the war. It was on this day, March 29, 1973, that the last remaining members of the United States Armed Forces withdrew from Vietnam.

The passage of Senate Bill 1903 by Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and Representative Wayne Smith calls on the citizens of the State of Texas to recognize March 29th as a day to honor those men and women who sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam conflict. This is a day to remember the prisoners of war and those members of the Armed Forces who are missing in action, and to pay tribute to all Vietnam veterans who served to protect democracy.

Those veterans, living and dead, deserve recognition for their selfless dedication. In 2005, the Texas Legislature approved the placement of a monument honoring Texan Vietnam Veterans on the Capitol grounds. The Texas Capitol Vietnam Monument will forever acknowledge the sacrifices of the many Texans who served in Vietnam.

Receiving no state funding, the monument is made possible by private donations from Texans who want to express their appreciation. Without your support, this important effort would not be possible. To learn more about the monument and how you can help, visit the monument website at www.buildthemonument.org.

We are grateful to all our U.S. military personnel, past and present, and today we remember those Texans who fought in defense of liberty in Vietnam. We are proud to be a part of this effort to honor these extraordinary Texans, and we hope that today, on Vietnam Veteran's Day, you will join us in honoring them.