

## 2000 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 74

Offered January 17, 2000

*Commending Virginia's Vietnam veterans.*

Patrons—Marsh, Byrne, Howell, Lambert, Lucas, Martin, Miller, Y.B., Puckett, Puller, Reynolds, Ticer and Watkins; Delegates: Baskerville, Cox, Crittenden, Diamonstein, Jones, J.C., Melvin, Robinson, Spruill, Stump and Ware

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was this nation's longest, beginning in 1961 and ending in 1975; and WHEREAS, of the 2.5 million men and women who served in Vietnam as soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, more than 58,000 were killed and more than 300,000 wounded; and

WHEREAS, Virginians served in Vietnam from the beginning to the end, with a Virginian being one of the first casualties of the war, in 1961, and one of the last, in 1975; and

WHEREAS, more than 230,000 Virginians served the nation in Vietnam, and 1,305 sacrificed their lives, with 52 Virginians still listed as missing in action; and

WHEREAS, of the 239 men who were awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award, ten were Virginians, including seven who died in action; and

WHEREAS, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who returned from Vietnam were never accorded the recognition and praise that was so routinely awarded returning servicemen and women in earlier wars; and

WHEREAS, the relative unpopularity of the Vietnam War in no way diminishes the personal courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty of the thousands of Virginians who answered their country's call; and

WHEREAS, in a time of renewed interest in America's veterans from World War II and the Korean Conflict, it is especially important that the extraordinary contributions of America's Vietnam War veterans be remembered and recognized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the the Senate, House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby recognize and commend the thousands of Virginians who served their nation in Vietnam with honor, courage, and devotion to duty; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly encourage the citizens of the Commonwealth to join in the long-overdue recognition of the terrible sacrifices endured by Virginia's Vietnam War veterans.

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