

SR-7

Expressing regret for the US government's inaction to initially support returning veterans from Vietnam

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Ray of Pennsylvania submitted the following resolution;

RESOLUTION

Expressing regret for the US government's inaction to initially support returning veterans from Vietnam

SECTION 2.

Whereas the year 2023 marks 50 years since the end of direct US involvement in the Vietnam War;

Whereas over 2.7 million Americans served in Vietnam, and 58,148 were killed in combat (ranging from age 16 to 62), 75,000 severely disabled, 23,214 were 100% disabled, 5,283 lost limbs and 1,081 sustained multiple amputations;

Whereas Vietnam veterans-unlike their predecessors-often endured significant prejudice, public distrust, and stigmatization upon returning to the United States;

Whereas the United States government initially denied a link between military service in Vietnam and veterans' subsequent health problems, namely Post Traumatic Stress syndrome, which would go on to impact as many as 800,000 veterans;

Whereas experts estimate that the number of veterans who took their own lives after returning home from Vietnam was at least as great as the 58,000 Americans who died in the war;

Whereas Vietnam veterans received significantly reduced benefits compared to veterans of previous conflicts, and the government offered them up to \$200 a month-an amount barely enough to cover living expenses;

Whereas nearly 250,000 Vietnam veterans were unable to find employment upon returning;

Whereas an estimated 390 Vietnam veterans pass away each day, with only 850,000 living veterans alive today;

Resolved, That the Senate-

- (1) Recognizes and expresses regret for the mistreatment which Vietnam veterans endured, despite their innumerable sacrifices, upon returning to their homes, both at the hands of the government and the public.