

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Vietnam War Veterans Day, was first observed in 2012 and formally recognized by congress through the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 to be celebrated on the 29th day of March. This date is to commemorate the last of our combat troops departing from Vietnam on March 29, 1973. Many years after the first Vietnam formal mission “Operation Chopper”, we continue to honor the more than 3 million Americans who proudly served; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam war began for some U.S. military members in the mid-1950s with the aim of aiding the non-communist south of the country to fend off the aggression of the communist north. Over the years the involvement escalated. On January 12, 1962, United States Army pilots lifted more than 1,000 South Vietnamese service members over jungle and underbrush to capture a National Liberation Front stronghold near Saigon. Operation Chopper marked America's first combat mission against the Viet Cong, and the beginning of one of our longest and most challenging wars; and

WHEREAS, our Vietnam Veterans answered our countries call and served with honor. Through more than a decade of conflict, the service of our men and women in uniform stood true. From Ia Drang to Hue, they won every major battle of the war and upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, during the last years of the war, our country was increasingly torn between citizens whom disagreed with United States involvement and citizens who felt it was necessary and just. In one of the war's most profound tragedies, many of our men and women veterans came home to derision and outright hostility, a terrible reception after enduring the horrors of war. The treatment of our veterans was unbefitting their courage and unworthy of their example. We must never let this happen again; and

WHEREAS, eleven years of combat left their imprint on a generation. Thousands returned home bearing shrapnel and scars; still more were burdened by the invisible wounds of post-traumatic stress. More than 58,000 laid down their lives. We pay tribute to those we have laid to rest, and we reaffirm our dedication to showing a generation of veterans the respect and support of a grateful Nation; and

WHEREAS, today, we confirm one of our most fundamental obligations: to show all who have worn the uniform of the United States, and those especially who have served honorably in an unpopular war, the respect and dignity they deserve. We honor their sacrifice by serving them as well as they have served us. We are called upon to pay tribute to the fallen, the missing, the wounded, the millions who served, and the millions more who awaited for our veterans to return home. Our Nation stands stronger for their service, and on Vietnam Veterans Day, we honor their proud legacy with our deepest gratitude.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Brazoria County Commissioners Court does hereby Proclaim March 29, 2025 as

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

in Brazoria County, Texas. Together, our court calls upon Brazoria County citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities that commemorate our Vietnam War Veterans.

APPROVED this 25th day of March 2025.

Brazoria County Judge

L. M. “Matt” Sebesta, Jr.

Commissioner, Precinct 1

Jay Burrige

Commissioner, Precinct 2

Ryan Cade

Commissioner, Precinct 3

Stacy L. Adams

Commissioner, Precinct 4

David Linder

