



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, it was 38 years ago, on March 29, 1973, that America withdrew its last 2,500 troops of young men and women from the battlefields of Vietnam and, since the end of that bitter conflict faraway in Southeast Asia, a generation of Americans has come of age and come to understand the significance of the war; and

Whereas, the Vietnam War was a long, wrenching experience for our Nation, for those who served as well as their families; the United States presence lasted more than 15 years – from the arrival of the first soldiers in the late 1950's to the departure of the last service members with the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, as North Vietnamese troops rolled into the capital of South Vietnam; and

Whereas, the statistics from the War tell a grim story: more than 3.4 million were deployed to Southeast Asia; 2.7 million served in the designated war zone; over 58,000 were killed in the theater of operation; 153,000 were non-mortally wounded; and nearly 2,000 are still unaccounted for, three decades later; and

Whereas, throughout the history of our State and Nation, countless brave individuals answered the call to patriotic duty, and New Yorkers have had many of their sons and daughters risk their lives, while many others made the ultimate sacrifice, and of the names listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in our Nation's Capital, 4,120 are from the great State of New York; and

Whereas, with indomitable spirit and fortitude, these noble Veterans endured particularly harsh conditions and illegal, inhumane treatment, and they are remembered for their selfless service and appropriately honored by New York State for having fulfilled their duty with the highest degree of valor – and those who lost their lives are likewise commemorated – as they gave of themselves in the name of freedom and the rights of all Americans; and

Whereas, our citizens have the utmost respect for the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who fought in Vietnam, and we pay tribute to them for their valiant efforts, reflective of the strength and character they demonstrate today, and welcome the opportunity to acknowledge and thank them for their defense of global freedom and democracy; and

Whereas, proudly serving with allegiance to the ideals that define our great country, the sacrifices of Vietnam Veterans have been integral to preserving our cherished way of life, and they continue to inspire us with their own lives of personal, professional, and military accomplishment, and it is fitting that all New Yorkers extend our admiration and heartfelt gratitude for such meaningful contributions to our Nation, this State, and their home communities;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2011 as

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

in the Empire State.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Cuomo".

Secretary to the Governor

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this sixteenth day of March in the year two thousand eleven.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Cuomo".

Governor