



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Vietnam War was officially known as the Second Indochina War, in which a military conflict took place in Vietnam from 1959 to 1975, initially involving military forces of North Vietnam against South Vietnamese forces; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, the United States became involved in an advisory capacity in support of South Vietnam because American policy makers feared if the South fell to the Communist regime of North Vietnam, the door would open for Communism to spread throughout Asia; and

WHEREAS, in 1965, U.S. combat troops began arriving en masse in Vietnam, and by 1969 a peak of approximately 543,000 were "in-country;" and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 1973, hostilities ended with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, the release of all American prisoners of war held by North Vietnam, and the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from South Vietnam; two months later, on March 29, 1973, the last U.S. military forces were pulled out of South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, more than 9 million Americans served in the military during the war; more than 58,000 Americans lost their lives, and more than 300,000 were wounded; and

WHEREAS, more than 57,000 New Mexicans served during the Vietnam War and 398 New Mexicans were killed in action, ranking New Mexico third nationally in the per-capita casualty rate; and

WHEREAS, upon returning home, many soldiers were not welcomed as patriots who dutifully answered the call to military service but were instead met with scorn as participants in a war unpopular with many here at home; and

WHEREAS, March 29, 2012 was initially proclaimed "National Vietnam War Veterans Day" nationwide in honor of our men and women who served during the Vietnam War era, and 5 years later was introduced as an annual observance; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2021, as:

"NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY IN NEW MEXICO"

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

*Done at the Executive Office this
19th day of February 2021.*

Maggie Toulouse Oliver

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

*Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.*

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

