

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SHAW, Rauscher

Introduced: 2/14/24

Referred: House Special Committee on Military & Veterans' Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Honoring United States military veterans exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam**
2 **War; and expressing gratitude for the courageous service of those veterans to the United**
3 **States.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 **WHEREAS** the United States was conceived by individuals who were willing to
6 sacrifice personal safety and concerns to ensure individual and collective freedom; and

7 **WHEREAS** the state is home to many veterans who have performed above and
8 beyond the call of duty; and

9 **WHEREAS**, throughout history, citizens of the United States have been called on to
10 take up arms against enemies of the nation, to risk their lives and leave loved ones behind to
11 safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens, and to vanquish enemies who
12 threatened the nation's way of life; and

13 **WHEREAS** more than 2,700,000 United States citizens served honorably in Vietnam
14 during the Vietnam War; and

15 **WHEREAS**, from 1961 until 1971, the United States armed forces widely used Agent

1 Orange in Vietnam as part of the herbicidal warfare program known as Operation Ranch
2 Hand; and

3 **WHEREAS** over 11,000,000 gallons of Agent Orange powder were sprayed over land
4 from helicopters or low-flying aircraft, destroying vegetation and crops to deprive enemy
5 guerrillas of food and cover, which exposed American service members to the herbicide and
6 defoliant chemical; and

7 **WHEREAS** Agent Orange is a dioxide and cancer-causing chemical that enters the
8 body through physical contact or ingestion and moves into the human cell nucleus, where it
9 attacks the genes and may cause a number of serious illnesses, including leukemia,
10 lymphoma, myeloma, ischemic heart disease, soft tissue sarcoma, amyloidosis, and diabetes,
11 as well as cancers of the throat, prostate, lung, and colon; and

12 **WHEREAS** Agent Orange may cause genetic damage, and in some cases, the
13 children and grandchildren of veterans exposed to Agent Orange have been born with spina
14 bifida and other abnormalities; and

15 **WHEREAS** over 300,000 Vietnam War veterans have died as a result of being
16 exposed to Agent Orange; and

17 **WHEREAS**, while fallen comrades are memorialized on the wall at the Vietnam
18 Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange during
19 the Vietnam War are not recognized as fatalities of the Vietnam War;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature honors the Vietnam War
21 veterans exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War for making untold and numerous
22 sacrifices to preserve the liberties United States citizens enjoy today and for future
23 generations to come; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes and expresses
25 its gratitude for the courageous service, heroism, and sacrifice of those veterans to the United
26 States for the cause of liberty.