

**STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE**

**2024**

**Source**  
HCR 8

**Legislative  
Resolve No.**  
21



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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