

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2022

Source
HJR 16

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
10



Encouraging the United States Congress to pass legislation granting the Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War access to the same veteran benefits received by United States veterans.

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

WHEREAS, beginning in 1960, the United States Central Intelligence Agency recruited thousands of Hmong people to fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese Army regulars in Laos; and

WHEREAS, in July 1961, Brigadier General Edward G. Lansdale wrote in a memo to General Maxwell D. Taylor that about 9,000 Hmong tribesmen had been equipped for guerilla operations and these operations were being conducted with considerable effectiveness in Communist-dominated territory in Laos; and

WHEREAS as many as 100,000 Hmong soldiers were recruited and trained as Special Guerrilla Units to engage the North Vietnamese Army; and

WHEREAS the United States relied heavily on the Hmong Special Guerrilla Units, although outnumbered by enemy forces, to intercept and prevent the flow of troops and war

supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail; and

WHEREAS the Hmong soldiers conducted tactical guerrilla actions, flew thousands of deadly combat missions in support of the United States Armed Forces and the United States Central Intelligence Agency, and fought in conventional and guerilla combat with an extremely high number of casualties; and

WHEREAS the Hmong soldiers protected United States personnel, guarded United States Air Force radar installations, gathered critical intelligence about enemy operations, and undertook rescue missions to save the lives of downed United States pilots; and

WHEREAS approximately 40,000 Hmong soldiers lost their lives defending democracy, approximately 50,000 Hmong soldiers were seriously injured and disabled, and approximately 3,000 Hmong soldiers were missing in action; and

WHEREAS Hmong soldiers died at 10 times the rate of United States soldiers in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, because the war effort of the United States in Laos was covert, the accounts of the sacrifices and service of the Hmong soldiers remain largely unknown; and

WHEREAS many Hmong soldiers became refugees because the United States government encouraged them to fight for the United States, and, as a result, thousands of family members of Hmong soldiers were evacuated to a United States air base in Thailand to avoid bloody vengeance by the communists in Laos and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, after the conclusion of the Vietnam War, thousands of Hmong soldiers suffered acts of retribution and atrocities by the Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese Army, causing hundreds of thousands of Hmong refugees to flee to neighboring Thailand; and

WHEREAS approximately 50,000 Hmong veterans reside in the United States, and approximately 150,000 Hmong and Laotian-born children have graduated from schools in this country; and

WHEREAS the Hmong warriors were promised that they would be treated just like other United States veterans;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United States Congress to pass legislation granting the Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War full access to the same veteran benefits received by United States veterans.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President

of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Denis McDonough, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 117th United States Congress.