

STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2018

Source
HR 9 am

House
Resolve No.
9



Encouraging the United States Congress to pass legislation giving full military burial rights to Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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 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, causing hundreds of thousands of Hmong refugees to flee to neighboring Thailand; and

WHEREAS approximately 5,000 Hmong veterans reside in the United States, and 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; and

WHEREAS Senator Lisa Murkowski introduced in the United States Senate a bill relating to the burial of Hmong veterans; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2018, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141, 132 Stat. 348), the United States Congress passed the Hmong Veterans' Service Recognition Act (P.L. 115-141, sec. 251, 132 Stat. 348), which allows some Hmong and Laotian veterans to be buried at United States military cemeteries, but does not include burial at Arlington National Cemetery;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives encourages the United States Congress to pass legislation granting the Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War full military burial rights, including burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert Wilkie, acting United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Charles E. Schumer, 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 115th United States Congress.