GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

2016 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 178

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016

The following bill was reported to the House from the Senate and ordered to be printed.

RECEIVED AND FILED
DATE March 30, 2016
3:32pm
ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY R. Adler

1 AN ACT relating to establishing Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in
2 Kentucky.
3 WHEREAS, there are over 125,000 Kentucky Vietnam veterans in the
4 Commonwealth, and they have contributed greatly to business, art, medicine, science,
5 technology, and government service; and
6 WHEREAS, more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces,
7 including 1,103 from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, lost their lives in Vietnam, and
8 more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded; and
9 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in the city of
10 Frankfort, Kentucky, to honor the 125,000 Kentuckians who served this nation so
11 courageously and unselfishly during the Vietnam era; and
12 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of
13 the United States, and the crossfire of debate about the country's involvement in the war
14 prevented many members of the Armed Forces from receiving the honor and respect they
15 deserve; and
16 WHEREAS, although civil discourse in the political affairs of the United States
17 should be encouraged, it is never too late to say "I am sorry" and "thank you" to our
18 Vietnam veterans; and
19 WHEREAS, the establishment of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day is an
20 appropriate way to express appreciation and honor the members of the United States
21 Armed Forces, as well as the members of service organizations who bravely served the
22 country and their fellow citizens during the Vietnam War; and
23 WHEREAS, on March 30, 2009, the 111th Congress proclaimed a national
24 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, encouraging the people of the United States to
25 observe this day with ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the numerous
26 contributions of veterans who served in Vietnam and the importance of helping all of
27 America's veterans return home and achieve happy, healthy, and productive lives;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO

4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 ***The thirtieth day of March each year is designated as Welcome Home Vietnam***

6 ***Veterans Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.***

7 ➔Section 2. The Governor shall issue a proclamation each year designating

8 March 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky

9 and direct the executive branch to acknowledge the day in commemoration of the

10 numerous contributions of veterans who served in Vietnam.

President of Senate

Speaker-House of Representatives

Attest: Chief Clerk of Senate

Approved Governor

Date 30 MARCH 2016