

As Reported by the Senate Veterans and Public Safety Committee

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

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H. C. R. No. 27

Representative Troy

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Senator Hackett

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To honor and recognize victims of Agent Orange during the
Vietnam War.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, Our nation was conceived by individuals who were
willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to
ensure our individual and collective freedom, and Ohio is
especially proud to be the home to so many valiant men and women
who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

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WHEREAS, The citizens of the United States have, throughout
the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies

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of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their 10
loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and 11
liberties guaranteed to all Americans and vanquishing those who 12
threaten our way of life; and 13

WHEREAS, More than eight million citizens of this country 14
honorably served during the Vietnam War, during which time Agent 15
Orange was widely used in Vietnam by the United States Armed 16
Forces as part of the herbicidal warfare program, "Operation 17
Ranch Hand," from 1961 until 1971; and 18

WHEREAS, Nearly twenty million gallons of the orange powder 19
was sprayed over the land from helicopters or low-flying 20
aircraft, destroying vegetation and crops in order to deprive 21
enemy guerrillas of food and cover for their activities and 22
exposing two million six hundred thousand American soldiers to 23
the herbicide and defoliant chemical; and 24

WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a dioxin and cancer-causing 25
chemical that enters the body through physical contact or 26
ingestion and moves into the human cell nucleus, where it 27
attacks the genes and causes a number of serious illnesses, 28
including leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, ischemic heart disease, 29
soft tissue sarcoma, amyloidosis, diabetes, and cancers of the 30
throat, prostate, lung, and colon; and 31

WHEREAS, Agent Orange also causes genetic damage, and in 32
some cases, the children and grandchildren of veterans exposed 33
to Agent Orange have been born with spina bifida and other 34
abnormalities; and 35

WHEREAS, Today, only eight hundred thousand Vietnam 36
veterans exposed to Agent Orange are alive, and approximately 37
three hundred deaths occur among them every day; and 38

WHEREAS, While fallen comrades are memorialized on The Wall 39
at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., those 40

veterans who are victims of Agent Orange are not recognized as 41
fatalities of the Vietnam War; and 42

WHEREAS, It is most appropriate that we should honor these 43
veterans to the full extent of our ability, as they have made 44
untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we 45
enjoy today and that our progeny hopefully will continue to 46
cherish for generations to come; now therefore be it 47

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 48
Assembly of the State of Ohio, honor and recognize the victims 49
of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War for their courageous 50
service to our nation as some of America's most heroic citizens; 51
and be it further 52

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 53
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 54
news media of Ohio. 55