

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

WHEREAS, The citizens of the United States have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all Americans and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a dioxin 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 causes a number of serious illnesses, including leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, ischemic heart disease, soft tissue sarcoma, amyloidosis, diabetes, and cancers of the throat, prostate, lung, and colon; and

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

WHEREAS, While fallen comrades are memorialized on The Wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., those veterans who are victims of Agent Orange are not recognized as fatalities of the Vietnam War; and

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

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

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

Speaker _____ of the House of Representatives.

President _____ of the Senate.

Adopted _____, 20____