

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUBUISSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to establish the "Agent Orange Veterans Service Medal" to commemorate the service and sacrifice of veterans who were exposed to the Agent Orange herbicide during the Vietnam War from 1961 to 1971.

WHEREAS, for generations, millions of Americans have answered the call to serve and taken the sacred oath to defend and preserve our nation's ideals of liberty and democracy; and

WHEREAS, such valiant men and women sacrifice their personal safety and time with their families to protect the individual and collective freedom guaranteed to all Americans; 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 were 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 more than two million 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 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 will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to establish a commemorative military service medal to be known as the "Agent Orange Veterans Service Medal" to 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE