

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1856

A RESOLUTION recognizing Geary County and Junction City in their observance of Vietnam Veterans Day and the 40th anniversary of the 1st Infantry Division's return to Kansas.

WHEREAS, On March 29, 1973, the final 2,500 American troops were withdrawn from South Vietnam, ending military involvement in what is now the longest war in our country's history; and

WHEREAS, Due to the era's turbulent cultural climate and the general unpopularity of the war, many returning veterans were not shown the respect and appreciation they deserved for their service to this country; and

WHEREAS, Since its unveiling, the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., has paid eternal tribute to the 58,195 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country; and

WHEREAS, Of the names listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall, 627 were from the State of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One), stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas, was the first division called to fight in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, After nearly five years of combat, the Big Red One returned home to Kansas in 1970. During its service in Vietnam, the division sustained 6,146 casualties; and

WHEREAS, Geary County and Junction City will honor the courage and sacrifice of Vietnam era veterans by marking March 29th as "Vietnam Veterans Day," and also by commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Big Red One's return to Kansas: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize Geary County and Junction City in their observance of Vietnam Veterans Day and in the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Big Red One's return to Kansas, and join them in extending our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all Vietnam veterans for their service to this country; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide enrolled copies of this resolution to Representative Barbara Craft; Senator Roger Reitz; the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, 230 W. 7th St., Junction City, Kansas, 66441; the Geary County Veterans Alliance, P.O. Box 1641, Junction City, Kansas, 66441; and Chuck Ford, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 344, P.O. Box 1492, Junction City, Kansas, 66441.

Senate Resolution No. 1856 was sponsored by Senator Roger P. Reitz.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*