



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Vietnam War Veterans Day commemorates the sacrifices made by our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is a day that is part of a national effort to recognize the men and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home; and

WHEREAS, throughout the duration of the Vietnam conflict, countless Chicagoans answered the nation's call to duty, demonstrating extraordinary bravery and devotion to our country; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States signed into law the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating March 29th of each year National Vietnam War Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, this day is to honor those who answered our nation's call of service—more than 58,000 military members lost their lives, their names are memorialized on our nation's capital grounds, 2,936 are from Illinois and etched on the Chicago Remembers Vietnam War Memorial, 153,000 were wounded, 766 were prisoners of war, and over 1,200 heroes have yet to be returned to American soil; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago also recognizes the efforts of Roger McGill, Harold Beyne and the entire planning committee of the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Parade, held June 13, 1986, was one of the largest gatherings in the city's history, attracting more than 175,000 veterans and an estimated 500,000, the impact of this event is still felt to this day; and

WHEREAS, our nation owes a great debt to those men, women, and family members who have sacrificed much for our nation's freedom. The Vietnam War profoundly impacted the lives of many Chicago residents, leaving an enduring legacy of service and sacrifice within our community:

NOW, THEREFORE I, BRANDON JOHNSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2024 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day in the City of Chicago and encourage all Chicagoans to honor and remember those who served in our county during the War in Vietnam.

A blue ink signature of Brandon Johnson, Mayor of Chicago, written over a horizontal line.

Mayor