

WHEREAS, The Republic of Vietnam ("South Vietnam") was a nation recognized internationally with an elected government by and for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in their effort to expand communism and control the Free World, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the People's Republic of China (PRC), and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, also known as North Korea) joined forces to attack and invade South Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the United States and its allies, South Korea, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines, became significantly involved in combat and in defending South Vietnam (the "Vietnam War"), with the goal to preserve South Vietnam's freedom and peace. More than 58,000 Americans, 5099 South Koreans, 521 Australians, 351 Thais, 37 New Zealanders, and, at a minimum, approximately more than 250,000 South Vietnamese lost their life during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Peace Accord ("Agreement") was signed on January 27, 1973, between the United States of America, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the Viet Cong (the Provisional Revolutionary Government supported by communist North Vietnam. On its face, the Agreement was to end the Vietnam War, initiate an orderly withdrawal of allies' troops, and ensure peace. Despite the Agreement, North Vietnam and its communist allies continued their efforts to put South Vietnam under communism. North Vietnam invaded and took over South Vietnam by military forces on April 30th, 1975; and

WHEREAS, at a minimum, approximately 165,000 South Vietnamese soldiers died in "re-education camps" operated by North Vietnam after the Vietnam War ended. Those who survived these camps experienced extremely harsh conditions and neglect. According to various estimates, between hundreds of thousands and approximately a million South Vietnamese people died trying to escape the communist regime by boat, with the majority perishing at sea; and

WHEREAS, April 30th, 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the fall of South Vietnam. We, approximately 2.4 million Vietnamese Americans, including over hundreds of thousand residing in Florida, mourn the loss of lives during and after the Vietnam War caused by communism. We salute and honor our Vietnam Veterans and the Veterans of South Vietnam.

NOW, THEREFORE, let it be PROCLAIMED that on April 30, 2025, we join hands to remember and honor the sacrifices made by all those who fought or died for freedom and peace in Vietnam. We stand in solidarity with the global Vietnamese refugee diaspora, in particular the community of Vietnamese Americans, in our collective mourning for our beloved South Vietnam on the occasion of this historic day.