



Tompkins County Legislature

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, by presidential proclamations on May 25, 2012, November 20, 2017, and March 28, 2022, the “United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration” commenced and extends through Veterans Day 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War is one of our nation’s longest military conflicts – stretching from 1955 with the arrival of U.S. military personnel to 1975 with the fall of Saigon and the evacuation of the last Americans from the U.S. Embassy there, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that, today, there are more than 7 million U.S. Vietnam Veterans living in America and abroad, along with 10 million families of those who served during this timeframe, and

WHEREAS, included among the more than 58,000 fallen men and women whose names are etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., are 4,126 names of New Yorkers; of this number Tompkins County lists 12 sons lost to the war, and

WHEREAS, the number of military service members lost to the effects of the Vietnam War continues to climb as their mental health and the long-term effects of exposure to Agent Orange and other toxins wreak havoc on their personal health, and

WHEREAS, to help separate the warrior from the war and salute the servicemembers who answered that call to service, this nation began a multi-year commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the war that ends in 2025, and

WHEREAS, March 29, 2025, is National Vietnam War Veterans Day, also known as Vietnam-era Veterans Recognition Day, which seeks to honor the service and sacrifice of all military Veterans, as well as their families, who served on active duty around the world between Nov. 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975; highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens; highlight the technology, science, and medical advances made during the war; and recognize the contributions by our allies, and

WHEREAS, no distinction is observed between Veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period as all were called to serve and none could self-determine where they would serve, and

WHEREAS, residents throughout Tompkins County wish to join in honoring the service of those who donned the uniform, and their families, during that time, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature does hereby proclaim March 29, 2025, as

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

in Tompkins County,

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Dan Klein, on behalf of the Tompkins County Legislature, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this the 18th day of March 2025.

Dan Klein, Chair
Tompkins County Legislature