



Tompkins County Legislature

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War stands as a profound chapter in our nation's history, a time when countless Americans – among them tens of thousands of sons and daughters of New York – answered the call to serve this nation, and

WHEREAS, more than 198,000 Vietnam Veterans call New York State home today, each having demonstrated extraordinary courage, resilience, and an unshakable commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy, and

WHEREAS, 4,119 New Yorkers – including 12 sons of Tompkins County – made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War, their names forever etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., and eternally engraved in the hearts of their families, neighbors, and fellow citizens, and

WHEREAS, many Vietnam-era Veterans returned home to a nation divided, often without the recognition and gratitude they had earned, yet they continued to contribute to their communities as leaders, mentors, and advocates for fellow service members, and

WHEREAS, their service reminds us that the price of liberty is paid not only on distant battlefields, but also in the quiet strength of those who bear its burdens long after the guns have fallen silent, and

WHEREAS, March 29, 2026, is National Vietnam War Veterans Day, also known as Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, which seeks to honor the service and sacrifice of all military veterans, as well as their families, who served around the world between Nov. 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that Tompkins County pauses to honor the bravery, service, and enduring legacy of these members who served in our nation's military during those years, and to ensure that future generations understand the cost of freedom and the value of service, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature does hereby proclaim March 29, 2026, as

VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

in Tompkins County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Shawna M. Black, 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 19th day of March 2026.

Shawna M. Black, Chairwoman
Tompkins County Legislature