



# Tompkins County Legislature

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## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2024, our nation will recognize National Vietnam War Veterans Day, a day to honor all those who served in and during the Vietnam War and who sacrificed, along with their families and caregivers, and

WHEREAS, this date marks the day in 1973 when the last 2,500 American combat troops were withdrawn from the battlefields in Vietnam; the last of acknowledged prisoners released from Hanoi, and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, some 3.4 million brave American men and women of all walks of life were deployed to Southeast Asia as part of the U.S. military during the Vietnam War, 2.7 million of these serving in the designated war zone, with many others stationed throughout the globe in support and other roles in service to this nation, 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 fallen sons; 1,600 remain unaccounted for, and

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

WHEREAS, many Veterans banded together in a prolonged struggle to have the federal government recognize the source of their suffering, to provide support and compensation to those Veterans, their families, and their caregivers, and

WHEREAS, given numerous Veterans of this war never received a proper welcome home nor thank you for service, an effort commenced in 2008 to help separate the warrior from the war and salute the men and women who answered that call to service, that effort continuing to this day through federal legislation and proclamations to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war, 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 so that we never forget their service and sacrifice, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature does hereby proclaim March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as

## VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

in Tompkins County, and urge all residents to respectfully acknowledge and thank all service members of this era, along with their families and caregivers, for their courage, devotion, service, and sacrifice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Dan Klein, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of Tompkins County, State of New York, on this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

Dan Klein, Chair  
Tompkins County Legislature