

Committee on Memorials and Remembrance

"To Memorialize casualties of war and Remember the service of Military Veterans"

Stephen L. Bates, Chair
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**Testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 20
Hearing by Veterans Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
April 30, 2019 3:00 pm**

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Meek, Vice Chair Lewis and Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing this resolution. For the record, I am Steve Bates, Chair of the Committee on Memorials and Remembrance, a committee of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 271.

The USS McGinty was a Destroyer Escort and had a crew of fourteen officers and two hundred and one personnel.

The USS McGinty had various assignments from 1944 to 1969 supporting the 7th fleet in the Pacific.

Of particular importance is that during peace time, the USS McGinty became a Reserve Destroyer Escort and was stationed in Portland, Oregon.

In 1961, by Presidential order, the USS McGinty was activated and once again assisted the 7th Fleet in the Pacific. During this time, the USS McGinty was dispatched to Vietnam and its crew was involved in training Vietnamese Military Personnel in Saigon and on the Mekong River.

The USS McGinty is the only Oregon based Navy ship to serve in Vietnam.

Upon returning to Portland, Oregon, the USS McGinty was active as a training ground to maintain the operational and combat readiness of navy reservists. The USS McGinty provided material assistance to emergency teams and lifesaving missions during the 1964 floods that devastated Oregon and Northern California.

The USS McGinty and its Naval Reserve Crew deserve recognition.

We must always remember those who answered our country's call and wore the uniform of our United State Military.

A Committee of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 271

Committee Members:
Steve Bates, Steve Wiley, Bert Key, Ron Ruedi

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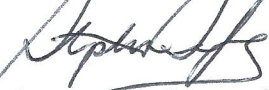
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Today, I wish to purvey a two pronged perspective:

- 1) The men and women who wore the military uniform during the Vietnam Era were treated poorly. Many were spit upon, verbally abused and sometimes even attacked.
- 2) Whether they were combat veterans or served as support staff, they all deserve honor and respect.

With this in mind, I ask this committee to move this resolution to the House Floor with a Do Adopt recommendation.

Respectfully yours.



Stephen L. Bates, Chair

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