

HCR 34 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure designates April 30, 2025, as Vietnamese American Remembrance Day to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. It honors the lives of those who served in the Vietnam War in the militaries of South Vietnam and the United States and expresses gratitude for their sacrifices in the pursuit of liberty and justice. It celebrates the Vietnamese American community for their ongoing contributions to Oregon and the nation, and reaffirms a commitment to promoting understanding, respect, and appreciation for the shared history and bright future of all who call this land home. Lastly, it encourages all Oregonians to join in the recognition of this cultural heritage celebration.

Fiscal Impact: No impact

Revenue Impact: No impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the resolution

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

On April 30, 1975, a pivotal day in world history, North Vietnamese forces captured Saigon, the capital of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), effectively ending the Vietnam War. Approximately 300,000 soldiers from South Vietnam and 58,000 soldiers from the United States, including more than 700 Oregonians, sacrificed their lives or are missing in action in service to their country during the Vietnam War.

Approximately 90,000 United States military veterans who served in the Vietnam War now call Oregon home and have endured hardships that have left an indelible mark on their lives, families, and communities. The bravery and dedication of South Vietnamese and United States military personnel, and all those involved in the effort to preserve freedom and democracy in Southeast Asia, should be honored and remembered with the utmost respect and gratitude.

After the fall of Saigon, millions of Vietnamese refugees fled their homeland to seek freedom in other countries, with approximately 800,000 resettling in the United States, where they have contributed significantly to the cultural, economic, academic, political, scientific, and artistic landscape of our nation.

The State of Oregon has welcomed tens of thousands of Vietnamese refugees and their families, who have shown resilience, strength, and perseverance in overcoming adversity to become a vital part of our society. The Vietnamese American community in the State of Oregon plays a crucial role in fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

Vietnamese Oregonians have contributed significantly to a wide array of fields, including politics, academia, business, science, technology, health care, and the arts. Vietnamese Oregonians' stories of migration, survival, and success are a testament to the values of freedom, hope, and the American dream.

The 50th anniversary of April 30, 1975, serves as an important moment for reflection on the sacrifices made by the previous generation of Vietnamese Americans in the United States, and recognition of that day ensures that the lessons of history will continue to guide future generations toward greater peace, freedom, and democracy.