

Testimony in Support of HCR34 – Vietnamese American Remembrance Day
Submitted by Julia Babcock

Chair, Members of the Committee:

My name is Julia Babcock, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 34, which designates April 30, 2025, as Vietnamese American Remembrance Day.

Vietnam is a place you experience with all five senses. I first traveled there through my work with Portland State University, which has a legacy of promoting leadership development through the Hatfield School of Government and co-developing public policy for sustainable development. My introduction to Vietnam began in the classroom—studying logic models and international aid—but what I learned in theory came to life through people-to-people field study tours, trainings, and exchanges since 2011, which revealed Vietnam’s remarkable rise from poverty in the wake of war, colonization, and globalization.

Over the past 15 years, I have had the honor of building lasting relationships with colleagues, students, and community leaders in Vietnam and across the Vietnamese American diaspora. Through sponsorship from partners such as the Ford Family Foundation, Intel, USAID, UNESCO, and the U.S. Embassy, I’ve supported training and education programs that elevate mutual understanding—not just to learn from Vietnam as it was in times of war, but to imagine what it can be in times of peace and prosperity.

With culture as the cornerstone, the Vietnamese community has taught the world what sustainability truly means—resilience, continuity, and care across generations. May this Remembrance Day further cultural preservation and expression for generations to come.

By passing HCR34, we honor this legacy: the veterans of the United States and the Republic of Vietnam, the courage of refugees, and the enduring contributions of Vietnamese Americans. We also reaffirm our commitment to healing, reflection, and friendship across cultures.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

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