

**Testimony in Support of HCR 34 – Vietnamese American Remembrance Day**  
**Submitted by: Tu Cong Phung**  
**Date: April 14th, 2025**

Dear House Committee,  
Honorable Members of the House of Representatives,  
Distinguished Guests, and Dear Friends,

My name is Tu Cong Phung, and I am 83 years old. I have been a musician and composer of Vietnamese and Cham music for most of my life, beginning at the age of 16.

I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 34. We gather to honor a pivotal moment in history—one marked by loss, courage, resilience, and the unyielding human spirit. On April 30th, we recognize Vietnamese American Remembrance Day, commemorating the fall of Saigon in 1975 and the beginning of a profound journey for countless Vietnamese families, including many veterans, in search of freedom, safety, opportunity, and happiness.

Fifty years ago, the fall of the South Vietnamese government brought waves of uncertainty and despair. Families were torn apart, lives uprooted, and dreams shattered. Yet in the face of chaos, a generation of Vietnamese men, women, and children made an unimaginable decision—to flee everything familiar in hopes of a better future.

Many arrived on distant shores with little more than the clothes on their backs—or with nothing at all, like my brother—carrying only the hope in their hearts. They endured the terror of escape by boat, years in refugee camps, and the challenge of rebuilding in a foreign land. Yet, through it all, they persevered.

My own family was fortunate. On October 14, 1979, our boat was rescued by the Cap Anamur ship in the Pacific Ocean. We were taken to a refugee camp in Singapore before being resettled in the United States in November 1979.

Today, Vietnamese Americans are educators, artists, engineers, lawyers, doctors, small business owners, public servants like yourselves, and community leaders. They have woven their stories into the American fabric, enriching this country with their language, culture, cuisine, and a deep reverence for freedom and democracy.

But this day is not only about remembering the past—it is also about honoring the enduring legacy of Vietnamese Americans. It is about the children and grandchildren of refugees who continue to carry forward the strength of their ancestors. It is about never forgetting the price of freedom, the pain of displacement, and the power of resilience.

We also remember those we lost—the soldiers, the civilians, the refugees who never made it to safety. And we give heartfelt thanks to the communities, veterans, and organizations who opened their arms and helped build bridges of hope.

On this solemn anniversary, let us reaffirm our commitment to compassion, justice, and remembrance. Let us stand in unity with the Vietnamese American community and recognize the indelible mark they have made—and continue to make—on the country we all call home.

For all of these reasons, I am proud and honored to testify in support of HCR 34 and the designation of Vietnamese American Remembrance Day.

Sincerely,

**Tu Cong Phung**

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