

Testimony in Support of HCR 34 – Vietnamese American Remembrance Day
Submitted by: An Thanh Vu
Date: April 14th, 2025

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

Thank you for gathering here today as we mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. As we stand in remembrance and reflection, we honor not only the historical significance of this conflict but also the profound impact it has had on Vietnamese and American veterans, their families, and the course of both our nations' histories.

My name is An Vu, and I am here to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution 34. I was born in 1943 in Nam Dinh, Northern Vietnam. My last position before the fall of Saigon was as the Head of the Programming Division of the South Vietnamese Radio System in 1974.

The Vietnam War was a complex and turbulent chapter that tested the courage and conscience of a generation. It was a conflict that saw young men and women bravely step forward to serve with honor, amid a time of global uncertainty and domestic unrest. Their service and sacrifice are the very reasons we are gathered here today.

As we reflect on the events of fifty years ago, we acknowledge the loss of over 58,000 Americans who gave their lives in Vietnam, the estimated 2.5 million North and South Vietnamese military and civilian deaths, and the millions who returned home forever changed. Their bravery and resilience live on, echoing through generations.

On April 30, 1975, I was the last person present at Saigon Radio at 10:30 a.m. After the fall of Saigon, I was imprisoned by the Vietnamese Communist government in what they called a "Re-Education Camp." I spent ten long years, from 1975 to 1985, incarcerated in Northern Vietnam.

Let us take this moment to reflect on the importance of diplomacy, peace building, and honoring those who bear the burden of war. We owe it to those we remember today to strive for a world where such sacrifices are no longer necessary.

Above all, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Vietnam veterans and their families for their service, their courage, and their contributions to the shared story of our two nations. May we always hold their memories close as we work to build a future worthy of their sacrifice.

Thank you,
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