



Proclamation

Vietnam Veterans' Day 2019

City of Spokane Valley, Washington

WHEREAS, *We join communities throughout Washington State and the nation in observing the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War – a commemorative 13-year program to honor those who served our country; and which commemoration will continue through Veterans Day 2025; and*

WHEREAS, *March 29 was chosen to be celebrated in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day Military Assistance Command Vietnam was deactivated; and*

WHEREAS, *We embrace our responsibility to continue helping our Vietnam and Lao veterans and their families heal from the heavy toll of war; and*

WHEREAS, *The troops of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, also known as the South Vietnamese Army, were the ground forces of the South Vietnamese military from its inception in 1955 until the Fall of Saigon in 1975; it is estimated that the Army of the Republic of Vietnam suffered 1,394,000 casualties, killed and wounded during the Vietnam War; and*

WHEREAS, *Members of the Lao Veterans of America, Inc., served in the U.S. clandestine war in the Royal Kingdom of Laos during the North Vietnamese invasion of Laos and Vietnam conflict; and an estimated 30,000 people, which is more than 10% of the Hmong population in Laos were killed in the war, and about 100,000 Hmong became refugees inside Laos; and*

WHEREAS, *We recognize all veterans of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and Lao Veterans of America for their services and sacrifices, and we therefore send them our heartfelt gratitude that they and their families so richly deserve; and*

WHEREAS, *Thousands of local, state, and national organizations, businesses and governmental entities have already partnered with the U.S. federal government in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Rod Higgins, Mayor of the City of Spokane Valley, on behalf of the Spokane Valley City Council and the citizens of the City of Spokane Valley, do hereby proclaim our recognition of the*

50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

and I urge citizens to join in our City's effort to recognize and thank those veterans and their families as we all recognize the event of National Vietnam Veterans Day.

Dated this 29 day of March, 2019.

[Signature]
L.R. Higgins, Mayor

Excerpt from Speech at Spokane Valley City Hall, Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29, 2018

"Today, we meet again as brothers, as comrades in the battlefields. We once fought side-by-side in the same anti-communist battlefronts. Deep from our hearts, we are grateful for the contributions and sacrifices of brave American soldiers assisting people of South Vietnam fighting against the communist aggression, to protect Vietnam's delicate freedom, democracy and national sovereignty.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is so touching, to attend this memorable event, to receive a special Proclamation from Spokane Valley government, to receive a pin and a certificate to honor Vietnam Veterans. We have sacrificed our youth to fight for a just cause, the noble cause of fighting against communism, to protect Freedom for South Vietnam. There are many reasons for us, unable to fulfill our mission. Terribly sad ending, that the entire Vietnam nation falling under the cruel ruling from both the Vietnamese and Chinese communist government."

Thanks to Mayor Lewis Rod Higgins, Ms RaeAnna Victor of Daughters of The American Revolution for organizing this special event. ■

