EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION

Nearly fifty years after the last American troops returned home from the Vietnam War, which claimed the lives of more than 58,000 U.S. service members, including 5,822 Californians, we honor the brave men and women who selflessly answered our nation's call at a time of great turmoil and strife.

Whether drafted or volunteered, our Vietnam veterans served with honor and distinction in one of our nation's most challenging wars, and amid deep social, political and cultural divisions throughout society. Upon returning home, these veterans – many of them bearing lifelong physical and mental scars – were not met with the gratitude, respect and care befitting of their heroism and sacrifices.

Each year, we must recommit ourselves to honoring the legacy of our Vietnam veterans and upholding the lesson they have imparted – welcoming home our service members is essential, but only the first step in our duty to serve and support them.

California is proud to stand by our veterans and remains steadfastly committed to connecting them and their families with the benefits they have earned and deeply deserve.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim March 30, 2022, as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 29th day of March 2022.

GAVINNEWSOM

Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D. Secretary of State