
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING VIETNAM ERA PATRIOTS

WHEREAS, Vietnam veterans gave their heart and soul in the service of our county and continue to give back to our community, and four of these outstanding individuals are being honored today;

1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Carole Hickerson, awarded the DOD civilian
2 service award, has fought tirelessly for the complete accounting
3 of all Vietnam POW/MIA service members through her work with the
4 National League of Families; she cofounded this group along with
5 the late Sybil Stockdale and became a national figure, meeting
6 with the heads of state to include President Nixon and many
7 others. She developed the POW/MIA logo for the National League
8 of Families that is now used as the logo on the POW/MIA Flag.
9 Carole has received numerous awards and honors from military and
10 civilian organizations alike. Mrs. Hickerson has lived a life
11 that a Hollywood screenplay would find unbelievable, but it is
12 all true. Carole Hickerson is a women of strength, values, and
13 a rock solid core, who was a strong, independent woman before it
14 was cool; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Alexander ("Sandy") Gaston is a Vietnam Era
17 sailor who served aboard two ships, off the coast of Vietnam,
18 providing him with what he affectionately calls, an "all-
19 expenses paid" getaway. While in Vietnamese waters, Mr. Gaston
20 was deployed on the USS Princeton and later the USS Wexford
21 County; both vessels were his home for two years while he was
22 participating in combat operations. After leaving the Navy in
23 1969 he pursued a career in investments; this led to his
24 interest in philanthropy. Mr. Gaston is by far the largest
25 private supporter of our Hawaii Historical Park, providing
26 extraordinary sums of capital to the Mighty Mo (he wrote the
27 first check to bring her to Hawaii), the Bowfin, the USS Arizona
28 Visitor Center remodeling, the Pacific Aviation Museum, and many
29 other local military-related causes; and
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1 WHEREAS, Col. Swede Olson USMC, (Ret.) is a Vietnam Era
2 Marine who was born in Bremerhaven, Germany during the
3 reconstruction of post-war Europe to a United States Army
4 Officer's family. He traveled the world growing up as an Army
5 brat and lived throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan.
6 He graduated from Southern Illinois University with a BS in
7 Business Administration, completed Platoon Leaders Course at
8 Quantico, Virginia in 1970, and was commissioned as a Second
9 Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He completed flight training at
10 Pensacola, Florida and proceeded to a fleet squadron
11 assignment. He deployed and his station assignments included
12 Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Korea, Japan,
13 the Philippines, Australia, Central and South America, and the
14 Caribbean, as well as East Coast, Midwest, West Coast, and
15 Hawaii assignments in the United States. After serving almost 31
16 years on active duty, and earning a slew of awards, he retired
17 in July of 2001. Upon retirement, he became active in a myriad
18 of community organizations and served as K-Bay Airfield Manager
19 at the Marine Corps Air Station in Kaneohe. He retired in March
20 2015; and
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22 WHEREAS, Chief Master Sergeant Stanley Y. Fernandez was
23 born on January 26, 1938, in Honolulu, HI. He graduated from
24 McKinley High School and enlisted in the USAF in September 1956.
25 CMSgt Fernandez led a storied and exciting career, from
26 recovering space capsules for the United States, to flying over
27 120 special missions during the Cuban Crisis, to flying 73
28 combat missions in Southeast Asia. A quiet, unassuming warrior,
29 he served from 1956 to 1984 spanning the globe as an airborne
30 surveillance technician and weapons controller. He was awarded
31 many citations, including the Bronze Star. Upon retirement, he
32 has been the de facto leader of the Civil Air Patrol as well as
33 an AFJROTC instructor here in Hawaii, giving back to our youth.
34 He has been an active member of the VFW, the DAV, the Knights of
35 Columbus, and many other organizations; now, therefore,
36

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
39 of 2017, that this body honors the service and sacrifice of
40 these outstanding Vietnam veterans commemorating the 50th
41 anniversary of the Vietnam war.



H.R. NO. 140

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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body thanks these
3 individuals for their extraordinary service to our country and
4 continuing service to our State.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 16 2017

