

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 1783

Sponsors: Representative Goodwin.

Referred to: Calendar Pursuant to Rule 32(a) for May 17, 2005.

May 17, 2005

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE
2 HMONG-LAO VETERANS OF THE LAOTIAN ARMY IN DEFENDING
3 FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ON THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
4 THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THEIR COUNTRY.

5 Whereas, the Hmong-Lao are noted for their warrior tradition, loyalty, and
6 bravery; and

7 Whereas, beginning in 1960, the United States recruited thousands of the
8 Hmong-Lao to fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese Army
9 regulars in Laos; and

10 Whereas, the United States relied heavily on the Hmong-Lao Special
11 Guerrilla Units to engage in direct combat with North Vietnamese troops from 1960 to
12 1975; and

13 Whereas, the Hmong-Lao conducted tactical guerrilla actions, flew thousands
14 of deadly combat missions in support of the Armed Forces and the Central Intelligence
15 Agency, and fought in conventional and guerrilla combat clashes with extreme
16 casualties; and

17 Whereas, the Hmong-Lao, although outnumbered, fought against enemy
18 forces to disrupt the flow of troops and war supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail; and

19 Whereas, the Hmong-Lao protected United States personnel, guarded United
20 States Air Force radar installations, gathered critical intelligence about enemy
21 operations, and undertook rescue missions to save the lives of downed United States
22 pilots; and

23 Whereas, the Hmong-Lao fought against the Communist North Vietnamese
24 who used Laos's territories to invade South Vietnam and the American troops; and

25 Whereas, more than 35,000 of the Hmong-Lao soldiers, 46,000 high-ranking
26 Lao officers, government officials, and police lost their lives defending the democratic
27 way of life, and many more were seriously injured, disabled, or died in the reeducation
28 camp (prison); and

1 Whereas, thousands of Hmong-Lao suffered grievous injuries and permanent
2 disabilities, and thousands more were captured and sent to Communist concentration
3 camps; and

4 Whereas, after the conclusion of the war, many Hmong-Lao soldiers were the
5 victims of acts of retribution and atrocities by the Pathet Lao, causing many of the
6 Hmong-Lao to flee to neighboring Thailand and become refugees; and

7 Whereas, the Hmong-Lao are deserving of recognition and acknowledgement
8 for their bravery, sacrifice, and loyalty to the United States exhibited by their people in
9 Southeast Asia; and

10 Whereas, Colonel Khoua Vang represented the Hmong-Lao Special Guerrilla
11 Units, serving as a leader of his people for almost two decades until Long Cheng fell on
12 May 13, 1975, forcing him and other Hmong-Lao to flee to Nam Phong Dang, Thailand,
13 where the United States transported a number of high ranking officials and their
14 families by transport planes to remain until Ban Vinai Camp was established by the
15 United Nations, and they were later able to come to the United States; and

16 Whereas, North Carolina has become the home for a large number of people
17 of Hmong and Lao heritages, including Colonel Vang's son, Koob D. Vajh, and his
18 family, as well as his former comrade in arms, Colonel Geu Vang, and his family; and

19 Whereas, the 107th United States Congress passed a resolution recognizing
20 the contribution of the Hmong-Lao in defending freedom and democracy and
21 supporting the goals of Hmong-Lao Recognition Day; Now, therefore,
22 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

23 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of Colonel
24 Khoua Vang, a former colonel in the Laotian Army.

25 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives encourages the people of North
26 Carolina to recognize the contributions of the Hmong-Lao soldiers in the Vietnam War
27 in defending freedom and democracy.

28 **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this
29 resolution to Colonel Khoua Vang's son, Koob D. Vajh.

30 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.