

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

Whereas, on August 7, 1964, the United States Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution authorizing the President to take any measures necessary to defend United States forces and promote the maintenance of international peace and security in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas, between 1965 and 1969 American troops strength in Vietnam rose from 60,000 to over 543,000, with approximately a total of 2,700,000 American men and women serving in Vietnam by the end of the war; and

Whereas, the United States suffered casualties of over 58,000 men and women, with 1,410 of those soldiers killed being Missouri citizens who sacrificed their lives in some of the most horrific conditions in the history of warfare; and

Whereas, the people of Missouri wish to properly honor and thank Vietnam War Veterans and their families for their sacrifice and bravery; and

Whereas, war memorials are important reminders that freedom is not free and the soon to be constructed Vietnam Veterans Memorial located on the College of the Ozarks Campus will be dedicated to perpetuate the appreciation and legacy of Vietnam War Veterans present and past; and

Whereas, Branson, Missouri is known by many as the "Veterans Capital of the Nation" hosting America's largest Veterans Day celebration every year, as well as the Vietnam Veterans "Welcome Home Celebration," and Branson is home to the Veterans Memorial Museum; and

Whereas, the College of the Ozarks, located only a few miles from Branson, has pledged to fully fund the construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial designed by the College's Graphic Design Class; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to honor the Vietnam War Veterans from the state of Missouri by recognizing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which is to be constructed on the College of the Ozarks Campus, as the official Vietnam War Memorial of the state of Missouri:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby recognize the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which is to be constructed on the College of the Ozarks Campus in Point Lookout, Missouri as the official Vietnam War Memorial of Missouri; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President of the College of the Ozarks and the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 913 in Branson, Missouri.