



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 132

February Session, 2024

Senate Joint Resolution No. 6

Senate, March 27, 2024

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through SEN. MARX of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the joint resolution ought to be adopted.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR WHO WERE EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE.

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, the United States was founded by those willing to
2 endure enormous sacrifice so that individual and collective freedoms
3 may be ensured; and

4 WHEREAS, Connecticut was and is home to countless veterans of the
5 armed forces who performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

6 WHEREAS, throughout the years, servicemembers have been called
7 upon to take up arms against the enemies of the United States, and to
8 risk their lives and leave behind their loved ones, for the purpose of
9 honorably safeguarding the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to the
10 nation's citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, over eight million such citizens bravely served in the
12 Vietnam War, during a time when the herbicide known as "Agent
13 Orange" was widely used in Vietnam as part of the United States'

14 herbicidal warfare program Operation Ranch Hand, from 1961 to 1971;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, nearly twenty million gallons of this orange powder
17 were sprayed over the land from helicopters or low-flying aircraft,
18 destroying vegetation and crops in order to deprive enemy guerillas of
19 food and cover for their activities and exposing roughly two million six
20 hundred thousand United States servicemembers to the herbicide and
21 defoliant chemical; and

22 WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a dioxin and carcinogenic chemical that
23 enters the body through physical contact or ingestion and moves into
24 the human cell nucleus, where it attacks the genes and causes a number
25 of serious illnesses, including leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, ischemic
26 heart disease, soft tissue sarcoma, amyloidosis, diabetes and cancers of
27 the throat, prostate, lung and colon; and

28 WHEREAS, Agent Orange also causes genetic damage and, in some
29 cases, the children and grandchildren of veterans exposed to Agent
30 Orange have been born with spina bifida and other health issues; and

31 WHEREAS, less than eight hundred thousand Vietnam veterans who
32 were exposed to Agent Orange are alive today, and approximately three
33 hundred deaths occur among such veterans each day; and

34 WHEREAS, while the names of fallen servicemembers are listed
35 upon the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., those
36 veterans who fall victim to the effects of Agent Orange are not
37 recognized as fatalities of the Vietnam War.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General
39 Assembly hereby recognizes the veterans of the Vietnam War who were
40 exposed to Agent Orange and honors such veterans for their untold and
41 immeasurable sacrifice in service to this nation and its citizens.

VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The resolution recognizes Vietnam Veterans that were exposed to Agent Orange, which has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

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RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR WHO WERE EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Resolutions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/14/2024)