

House Resolution 1249

By: Representatives Smith of the 70th and Horne of the 71st

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring military veterans of the Vietnam War and commending efforts to bring a display
2 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Traveling Wall to Coweta County; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War lasted 20 years, from 1955 to 1975, spanning the tenures of
5 five United States Presidents, and the United States Department of Defense has declared
6 2011 as the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War; and

7 WHEREAS, more than three million Americans served in the Vietnam War, with United
8 States troop levels increasing rapidly from the early 1960s until the country's peak
9 involvement in 1968, when over 550,000 soldiers were serving in Vietnam; and

10 WHEREAS, 58,159 members of the United States armed forces were lost in the war, and the
11 name of each of these heroes was inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, which
12 is located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.; and

13 WHEREAS, in addition to the American lives lost, there were many casualties from other
14 nations, including approximately three million Vietnamese soldiers and civilians, nearly
15 300,000 Cambodians, and approximately 200,000 Laotians; and

16 WHEREAS, it is important that all current members of the military and veterans are thanked
17 for their selfless service to this nation and honored for their unyielding commitment to
18 protecting the people and ideals of the United States, especially veterans of the Vietnam War,
19 who returned home to unpopular public opinion of the war; and

20 WHEREAS, on October 20-23, 2011, the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Wall will be in
21 Coweta County at the Coweta County Fairgrounds, giving Georgians and others the
22 opportunity to pay their heartfelt respect and express their deepest gratitude to those who
23 paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms; and

24 WHEREAS, Coweta County was home to numerous military personnel who were killed in
25 action in Vietnam, and those currently known include Terry Allen, Jr., Johnny Calhoun,
26 Jessie Cofield, Tim Cole, Jr., Robert Couch, Grady Elder, Bobby Freeman, Arthur Hines,
27 Thomas Huddleston, Warner Hughie, James Kerr, Donald Lowery, Homer Pease, Larry
28 Pinson, Edgar Pittman, Jerry Smith, Leavy Solomon, William Thomas, Wayne Vessell,
29 Charles Walthall, Joseph Watson, and Robert M. Webb, Jr.; and

30 WHEREAS, veterans of the Vietnam War embody the spirit of service, willing to find
31 meaning in something greater than themselves, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that
32 the outstanding accomplishments and sacrifices of these remarkable and distinguished
33 Americans be honored appropriately.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body recognize the selfless sacrifice of Vietnam veterans, call for
36 remembrance of the soldiers who have offered their lives in the name of freedom, and
37 commend the efforts of the Coweta County Commission on Veteran's Affairs to bring the
38 Traveling Wall to Georgia.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Coweta County
41 Commission on Veteran's Affairs.