

## House Resolution 17

By: Representatives Blackmon of the 146<sup>th</sup>, Ballard of the 147<sup>th</sup>, Bonner of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Hitchens of the 161<sup>st</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and recognizing the veterans who were victims of Agent Orange during the  
2 Vietnam War.

3 WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their  
4 personal safety to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the State of Georgia is  
5 especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed  
6 above and beyond the call of duty; and

7 WHEREAS, more than 228,000 men and women from Georgia served in the Vietnam War,  
8 of which 1,584 were killed in action and 8,534 were wounded; and

9 WHEREAS, approximately 234,000 Vietnam veterans currently reside in Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States have, throughout the years, been called upon  
11 to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their  
12 loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all  
13 Americans and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

14 WHEREAS, more than eight million citizens of this country honorably served during the  
15 Vietnam War, during which time the chemical Agent Orange was widely used in Vietnam  
16 by the United States Armed Forces as part of Operation Ranch Hand, the herbicidal warfare  
17 program, between 1961 and 1971; and

18 WHEREAS, nearly 20 million gallons of the orange powder were sprayed over the land  
19 from helicopters or low-flying aircraft, destroying vegetation and crops in order to deprive  
20 enemy guerrillas of food and cover for their activities, which exposed 2.6 million American  
21 soldiers to the herbicide and defoliant chemical; and

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

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

30 WHEREAS, today, approximately 800,000 Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange are  
31 alive, and approximately 300 deaths occur among them every day; and

32 WHEREAS, while fallen comrades are memorialized on The Wall at the Vietnam Veterans  
33 Memorial in Washington, D.C., the veterans who are victims of Agent Orange are not  
34 recognized as fatalities of the Vietnam War; and

35 WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should honor these veterans to the full extent of  
36 our ability, as they have made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we  
37 enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come.

38 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
39 the members of this body honor and recognize the veterans who were victims of Agent  
40 Orange during the Vietnam War for their courageous service to our nation as some of  
41 America's most heroic citizens.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
43 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
44 public.