



HR0249

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On April 30, 1975, Saigon, the capital of the
3 Republic of Vietnam, popularly known as South Vietnam, was
4 overthrown by the North Vietnamese army, and the Republic of
5 Vietnam was dissolved; and

6 WHEREAS, Vietnamese and Americans worked together to
7 organize the largest helicopter evacuation in history from the
8 United States Embassy in Saigon, helping over 7,000 people,
9 including 5,500 Vietnamese, leave within 24 hours; and

10 WHEREAS, Further operations supported by Americans that
11 spring, summer, and autumn helped approximately 125,000
12 Vietnamese refugees leave their country, and the eventual
13 creation of a refugee program with the assistance of the
14 United Nations helped over 500,000 Vietnamese people immigrate
15 to the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities annually
17 commemorate the Fall of Saigon, known as "Black April", in
18 order to recognize the sacrifices of those in their
19 communities who fought in defense of the ideals of democracy,
20 freedom, and human rights; and

21 WHEREAS, Over the past half century, hundreds of thousands

1 of Vietnamese people have settled in the United States and
2 have worked to build vibrant communities that contribute to
3 the rich diversity of the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Illinois has its own vibrant community of
5 Vietnamese and Vietnamese Americans, including refugees who
6 helped establish a "Little Saigon" neighborhood in a corridor
7 along Argyle Street in Chicago's Uptown area, building
8 businesses and social service organizations; and

9 WHEREAS, The Illinois community of Vietnamese and
10 Vietnamese Americans has grown over the past half century from
11 just hundreds of people to between 30,000 and 40,000 today;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we honor the contributions of Vietnamese and Vietnamese
16 Americans to the United States and their values of upholding
17 human rights, freedom, and democracy and recognize the
18 sacrifices made in order to support these values, including
19 losses of family, home, and life; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we honor the courage, dignity, strength,
21 and resilience of Vietnamese refugees who were forced to flee
22 their home to escape persecution and rebuild their lives and

1 recognize the need to build empathy and understanding for the
2 plight of refugees; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we urge all Illinoisans to take time to
4 learn about the history and contributions of Vietnamese and
5 Vietnamese American people to Illinois and the United States.