



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: 10/19/2022

To: The Honorable Mayor Hodson & City Council

Thru: Scott Archer, City Administrator

From: Joseph Lindsay, City Attorney/ Assistant City Administrator

Agenda Item: Resolution 1377: A Resolution Expressing Gratitude to Veterans of the Vietnam War and Apologizing for the Negative Ways They Were Treated Upon Their Return Home

Goal: Enhance Engagement & Communications that represents broad perspectives

Objective: N/A

Summary

Whether or not to pass a City resolution recognizing Vietnam Veterans and apologizing for the negative ways they were treated on their return home.

Background/Discussion

Ken and Melinda Buckles approached the City Council some months ago about their going on a Hummer-V tour of America with an apologetic message to all Veterans and families of Veterans of the Vietnam War. He asked if the City of Canby wished to sponsor his tour (we did with a grant) and whether the City would consider an apologetic and acknowledging resolution to the same effect. The Council asked staff to return with this resolution before the start of the Buckles' tour.

Attachments

Resolution 1377

Fiscal Impact

None

Options

Pass the resolution as presented, amend the wording of the resolution, or not pass it.

Recommendation

Pass the resolution as presented.

Proposed Motion

"I move to approve Resolution 1377: A Resolution Expressing Gratitude to Veterans of the Vietnam War and Apologizing for the Negative Ways They Were Treated Upon Their Return Home."

RESOLUTION NO. 1377

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND APOLOGIZING FOR THE NEGATIVE WAYS THEY WERE TREATED UPON THEIR RETURN HOME

WHEREAS, The Vietnam War spanned nearly 15 years, involving North Vietnam and the Vietcong in conflict with South Vietnam and the United States, along with our allies, ending nearly 47 years ago in 1975;

WHEREAS, More than 9 million Americans courageously answered their country's call to service during the years the Vietnam War, many of them being deployed to unknown lands far from their homes and loved ones, and enduring the horrors of war while fighting to preserve our freedoms and way of life;

WHEREAS, More than 58,000 American service members never returned home, making the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation, their names now being etched in black granite on The Wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and more than 1,500 service members remain missing in action;

WHEREAS, Those who did return home did not receive the heroes' welcome that they deserved, and instead, were too often subject to abuse and treated shamefully by an American government and public that were deeply divided over the unpopular war, causing pain, trauma and other consequences that have been long-term and intergenerational; and

WHEREAS, The Government of New Zealand in 2008 formally apologized to its Vietnam veterans who were deployed in support of our troops, a gesture that was healing for that generation of service members who had also endured abuse upon returning home, but the Government of the United States has never officially done so.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Canby City Council, as follows:

The City of Canby hereby acknowledge and express our tremendous and undying gratitude for the dedicated service and sacrifices of the American military service members deployed during the Vietnam War, and to the many servicemen and women who supported them in their mission, as well as their family members and loved ones.

Furthermore, the City of Canby wishes to apologize and express our deep regrets to our Vietnam veterans and their families for the manner in which their loyal service to our Nation was not recognized as it should have been, when it should have been, and for all the unnecessary pain and trauma this may have caused.

This resolution will take effect on October 19, 2022.

ADOPTED this 19th day of October 2022 by the Canby City Council.

Brian Hodson
Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Bisset, CMC
City Recorder