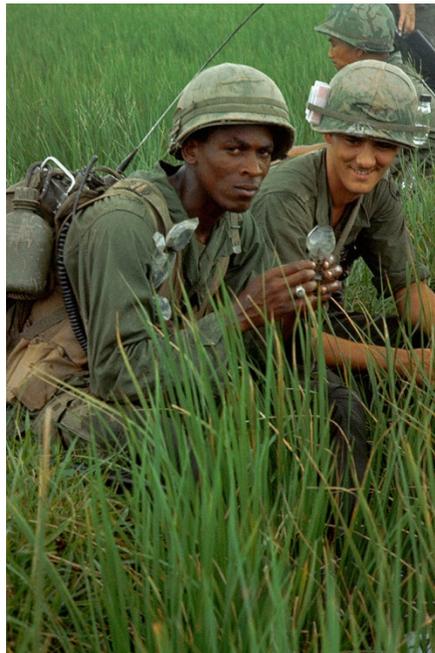




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LEGISLATION

Mar/April 2019



I was recently asked by a member of my local American Legion Post about how many states had an official Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day. I told him I wasn't sure, but would find out. While searching for the answer I came across an interesting website: www.ncsl.org

This is the official website of the *National Conference of State Legislatures*. They list their purpose as presenting news, current events and analysis of national issues to support state legislatures. They conduct bipartisan case studies (giving pros and cons) on important issues facing our state governments. By using their website, I was rewarded with the answer to my question! A chart appeared listing each state with the number and status of enacted legislation and resolutions regarding a designated Vietnam Veterans Day. Just for your own curiosity, 46 states and Puerto Rico have a designated Vietnam Veterans Day. Some states use March 29th, while other states use March 30th. March 29th is generally viewed as the more appropriate date since our troops were withdrawn

from Vietnam (and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived in America) on March 29, 1973. In 2008, Minnesota legislators via HB (House Bill) 2582 designated March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day.

WOMEN ARE BECOMING A STRONGER PRESENCE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS! The same website I used to find the answer to my Vietnam Veterans Day question states 2110 women (28.5%) serve in the 50 state legislatures. This is up from the 1874 ladies serving in 2018. In Minnesota there are 16 women in the State Senate and 48 women in the Minnesota House making up 31.8% of our state's legislature. As American Legion Auxiliary members we need to continue to be a strong voice for veterans, active duty military and their families in contacting all of our legislators whether they are serving in Minnesota or the national arena.

I hope you had a wonderful Valentine's Day. Stay warm and think spring!

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