

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6036

A RESOLUTION honoring United States servicemembers who were exposed and fell victim to Agent Orange during and after the Vietnam War.

WHEREAS, Our nation was built by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom; and

WHEREAS, Kansas is proud to be the home of many men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, citizens of the United States have been called to take up arms against the enemies of our great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind, to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, When an estimated 20 million gallons of Agent Orange were sprayed across Vietnam from U.S. aircrafts, destroying vegetation and crops that provided the enemy's food supply and cover that concealed enemy forces, millions of American soldiers were exposed to the chemical; and

WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a blend of poisonous herbicides, including dioxin, that, through physical contact or ingestion, causes a number of serious illnesses, including leukemia, myeloma, Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, ischemic heart disease, soft tissue sarcomas, amyloidosis, diabetes, Parkinson's disease and cancers of the throat, prostate and lung; and

WHEREAS, Agent Orange also causes genetic damage and birth defects, as some children and grandchildren of veterans exposed to Agent Orange have been born with spina bifida and other defects; and

WHEREAS, The Wall at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., memorializes those who died overseas, but it does not include those veterans who were exposed and fell victim to Agent Orange years after the war; and

WHEREAS, Agent Orange continues to affect American heroes who served on the ground, in the air and on the waterways in Vietnam and who have developed these serious illnesses or passed away years after leaving battle; and

WHEREAS, We should honor these veterans as they have made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that generations to come will continue to cherish: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we honor United States servicemembers who were exposed and fell victim to Agent Orange during and after the Vietnam War.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*