**WALWORTH COUNTY PROCLAMATION**

**A Proclamation Designating March 29, 2023, as “Welcome Home Veterans Day”**

**WHEREAS** the Vietnam war was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in conflict with the United States Armed Forces and South Vietnam; and

**WHEREAS** the United States became involved in Vietnam because policymakers in the United States believed that if South Vietnam fell to a Communist government, then Communism would spread throughout the rest of Southeast Asia; and

**WHEREAS** members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role with the South Vietnamese in 1961; and

**WHEREAS,** as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2, 1964, and August 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on August 7, 1964, which effectively handed over war-making powers to President Lyndon B. Johnson until such time as “peace and security” had returned to Vietnam; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat forces arrived in Vietnam; and

**WHEREAS,** by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969 a peak of approximately 553,000 troops was reached; and

**WHEREAS,** on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all United States Prisoners of War held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

**WHEREAS,** on March 29, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam; and

**WHEREAS** more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded; and

**WHEREAS,** members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War, were caught upon their return home in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War; and

**WHEREAS** it was also the first time in history America failed to welcome its veterans back as heroes; and

**WHEREAS** the establishment of a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day” would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; and

**NOW, THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize March 29, 2023, the 50th anniversary of the United States Armed Forces withdrawal from Vietnam, as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”. The Walworth County Board of Commissioners further recognize and honor the contributions of the veterans of the Armed Forces who served in Vietnam.

Dated this 7th day of April 2022.

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Jim Houck, Chairman

Walworth County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

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Deb Kahl

Walworth County Auditor