
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8026

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 1st Special Session

By Senators Roach, Benton, Mulliken, Oke, Rasmussen, Johnson, Morton,
Honeyford, Swecker, Schmidt and Stevens

Read first time . Referred to .

1 TO THE HONORABLE MAYORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, AND LEGISLATIVE BODIES
2 OF THE CITIES, TOWNS, AND COUNTIES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
4 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
5 represent and petition as follows:

6 WHEREAS, The current government of Vietnam is a nondemocratic, one-
7 party system without rule of law that arbitrarily infringes on the
8 basic human rights and civil liberties of its citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, Vietnamese Americans were forced to flee Vietnam in fear
10 of the Vietnamese government's campaign of retribution and persecution
11 after the fall of Saigon in 1975; and

12 WHEREAS, The State of Washington is home to many Vietnamese
13 Americans who have contributed to our state's culture, economy, and
14 community; and

15 WHEREAS, The vast majority of Vietnamese Americans embrace the
16 yellow flag with three red stripes as the symbol of the Vietnamese
17 American community; and

18 WHEREAS, The current government of Vietnam continues to harass,
19 interrogate, and arrest individuals advocating democracy; and

1 WHEREAS, The current government of Vietnam has increased its human
2 rights violations since the passage of the Bilateral Trade Agreement in
3 2000; and

4 WHEREAS, Dating back to 1948 the yellow flag with three red stripes
5 has been a symbol of resilience, freedom, and democracy for people of
6 Vietnamese descent; and

7 WHEREAS, Vietnamese Americans have shown their desire that the
8 yellow flag with three red stripes be recognized as the official flag
9 of the Vietnamese American community;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the yellow
11 flag with three red stripes be recognized by city and county officials,
12 through the adoption of ordinances or resolutions, as the official flag
13 of the Vietnamese American community, and urge that this flag be
14 displayed at Vietnamese American events or any public function
15 organized by the Vietnamese American community.

16 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
17 transmitted to the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington
18 Association of Counties for distribution to the Mayors, Executive
19 Officers, and Legislative Bodies of the Cities, Towns, and Counties of
20 the State of Washington.

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