

and pass the bill as amended by the managers' amendment.

VETERANS DAY, 1999—HONORING  
THE SERVICE OF VIETNAM AND  
VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 3, 1999*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, in a little more than a week, we will once again observe Veterans Day—the date a grateful Nation sets aside to honor the men and women who have served our nation as members of its military forces.

It is particularly poignant that we observe this occasion. First designated to commemorate Armistice Day and the restoration of peace, Veterans Day today is the occasion on which we appreciate the accomplishments and the sacrifices of untold scores of individuals. It is a day on which we acknowledge the role these individuals played in writing the history of the United States—a history that, in this century alone, has evolved from isolation to world leadership.

Underscoring its importance and the value of the ceremonies we observe today is the fact that a smaller percentage of Americans have now served in the Armed Forces of the United States that at any time in our recent history. This of course, reflects the unprecedented peace the United States has enjoyed. But, it also reminds us not to be lulled into complacency—into believing that future generations will not be called to arms.

Though we pray in our hearts they won't be called, we know in our heads that one day they may.

Like others before us, my generation was also called to arms. Most of us responded, notwithstanding the controversy and turmoil the war caused. The images of Vietnam are still vivid in our individual and collective memories. But, what's most surprising is the passage of time since the war and the fact that next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the departure of the last U.S. servicemen from Vietnam—a departure that closed the Vietnam-era and, for many of us, closed an important chapter in our lives.

Between 1961 and 1975, more than 2,590,000 Americans served in the Armed Forces in Vietnam. Untold thousands served in support roles elsewhere in Southeast Asia. At the same time, millions more protected U.S. national security interests in the other far regions of the world. And let us not forget the millions of civilians who also contributed to our nation's defense at a time tensions were growing between world superpowers.

Recently, the Commander's Council, the Allied Council, and the Administration and staff at the California Veterans Home in Yountville suggested to me that our nation celebrate this year's Veterans Day by marking the service of those who served in and during the Vietnam-era. On the eve of the 25th anniversary of that war's end, such a tribute is indeed appropriate and, as such, I would like to read the text of a resolution the Yountville Veterans Home residents and staff suggested:

RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO COMMEMORATE AND RECOGNIZE THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THOSE WHO DURING THE VIETNAM ERA SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OR IN CIVILIAN CAPACITIES IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

Whereas the United States Armed Forces conducted military operations in Southeast Asia during the period (known as the "Vietnam era") from February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975;

Whereas during the Vietnam era more than 2,590,000 American military personnel served in the Republic of Vietnam or elsewhere in Southeast Asia in support of United States military operations in Vietnam, while millions more provided for the Nation's defense in other parts of the world;

Whereas during the Vietnam era untold numbers of civilian personnel also served in support of United States operations in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world;

Whereas May 7, 2000, marks the 25th anniversary of the closing of the period known as the Vietnam era;

Whereas citizens throughout the United States traditionally commemorate the service and sacrifice of the Nation's veterans on November 11th each year, the date designated by law as "Veterans Day", and

Whereas Veterans Day, 1999 would be an appropriate occasion to begin a period for observance of that anniversary and to recognize and appreciate the individuals who served the Nation in Southeast Asia and elsewhere in the world during the Vietnam era: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the American people are encouraged through appropriate ceremonies and activities, to recognize and appreciate the selfless sacrifice of the men and women, both military and civilian, who during the Vietnam era served the Nation in the Republic of Vietnam and elsewhere in Southeast Asia or otherwise served in support of United States operations in Vietnam and in support of United States interests throughout the world.

I commend the resolution to all Americans and thank the individuals at the California Veterans Home in Yountville for proposing it as part of this year's Veterans Day observance.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL J. "DUKE"  
MCVEY

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 3, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to recognize the outstanding achievements of Daniel J. "Duke" McVey, of Jefferson City, Missouri. McVey, who has been president of the Missouri AFL-CIO since 1982, will retire at the end of the year.

Duke McVey has been a truly outstanding civic leader for the AFL-CIO and for the State of Missouri. McVey has been a Member of Pipefitters Local 562, St. Louis, Missouri, since 1954. In 1978, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Missouri State Labor Council for the AFL-CIO, a position he served until 1982. McVey was then elected President of the Missouri AFL-CIO in 1982. In the 17 years he has headed the Missouri AFL-CIO, he has raised the level of involvement by unions in governmental affairs.

In addition to his service in the AFL-CIO, McVey has been a leader in his community by

serving on various councils and committees. He currently serves on the Missouri Training and Employment Council, and has been a member of Trustees of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Missouri since 1992. McVey serves on the Missouri Business Council, the Missouri Task Force on Workers Compensation, the Commission on Management and Productivity, and the Missouri State Council on Vocational Education. Since 1994, McVey has served on Missourians for Equal Justice, the Governor's partnership on the Transition from School to Work, and Goals 2000 State Panel. McVey served as the Literacy Investment for Tomorrow (LIFT) Board President in 1995, and he is a member of the Missouri Global Partnership, the Children's Trust Fund, and the Commission on the Future of the South.

Duke McVey has been an extraordinary leader for labor, for his community, and for his State. I know the House will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding leader and wishing him and his family—his wife Arlene, and his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren—all the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE L.  
PHELPS

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 3, 1999*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading ladies, and distinguished member of the Bayfield School District Board of Education, Katherine L. Phelps. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for many years, has exhibited dedication and experience in the education system of Bayfield, Colorado.

Throughout the course of her distinguished career, Katherine's dedication to our children has been unparalleled. She has consistently worked with the board, the district, and the community to make the Bayfield schools the best they could be.

Aside from her involvement in the school district, she also takes on an active role in the community. She is a member of the School Accountability Committee, the 4-H club, the booster club, and numerous sports programs.

Together with her husband, Arvin, she has five children: Sharla, Rick, Trent, Dion, and Wendy. She also has seven grandchildren and one on the way. Undoubtedly, these fine young people will carry the torch of dedication and leadership that their mother embraces so diligently.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Katherine Phelps for her exceptional service on the Bayfield School District Board of Education. Because of Mrs. Phelps' dedicated service, it is clear that Colorado is a better place. For many years to come, her legacy of hard work and dedication will be remembered. I wish her all the best in her well deserved retirement and in all future endeavors.