

*WHEREAS, the war in Vietnam spanned decades, greatly affecting a generation of Americans and Coloradans. The first US troops saw active military involvement in Vietnam 55 years ago in a war that would change the history of the world; and*

*WHEREAS, nearly 3 million American soldiers served tours of duty in Vietnam, with a total of more than 9 million; and*

*WHEREAS, by the end of the war, our veterans came home to a nation split by bitter divisions and faced painful treatment unbecoming the bravery and dignity they displayed in answering their country's call; and*

*WHEREAS, the wounds of the war were not just physical for many veterans, with many suffering PTSD and other related conditions as a result of the hardships they went through in service of their country; and*

*WHEREAS, 623 Coloradans were among the 58,220 members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in the service of their country with another 300,000 wounded in action. Of the 2,500 Americans listed as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action, 41 are from Colorado, with 24 Coloradans still unaccounted for; and*

*WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates there are up to 79,313 Vietnam veterans in Colorado who served between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975. An estimated 541 of these veterans are lost to us every day; and*

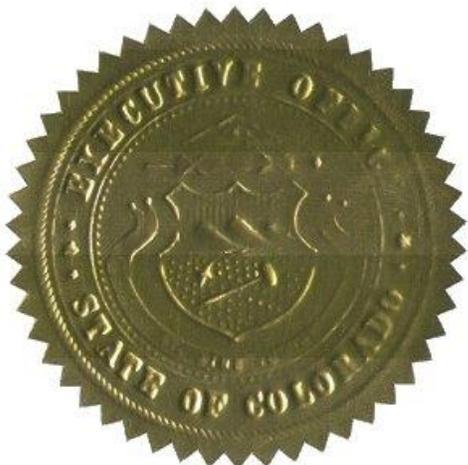
*WHEREAS, it is important that those who served are honored with recognition and dignification and to ensure that their great sacrifices and immeasurable contributions to our nation are never forgotten;*

*THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim March 29 2020 as,*

## **VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY**

*in the State of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-ninth day of March, 2020*



  
Jared Polis  
Governor