

DRAFT RESOLUTION 19-14

SUBJECT: Recognition of the Lao/Hmong Combat Role in Vietnam

SOURCE: HQ

WHEREAS, Lao/Hmong Soldiers, were recruited by, trained by, equipped by, paid by, and fought as United States Special Forces SGU (Secret Gorilla Units), commanded by Officers of the United States Central Intelligence Agency, Colonel James W. Leer Commanding from 1961 to 1975 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Lao/Hmong Soldiers, performed covert missions as ordered and planned by Officers of the United States Military and Central Intelligence Agency within Laos and Vietnam to help deter the movement of North Vietnamese Troops, supplies and weapons on the Ho Chi Minh Trail and other areas as assigned and rescued many downed pilots and recovered the bodies of many members of the United States Armed Forces at great risk and losses to their own ranks. Many of their ranks were captured and tortured in prison camps for many years after the United States engagement ended in Vietnam after which finding they had lost their country for fighting in the United States SGU Forces; and

WHEREAS, Lao/Hmong Soldiers, were issued U.S. Air Force Pilot wings on successfully completing pilot training and U.S. Parachute Badges for completing parachute school along with being awarded the Congressionally Awarded Vietnam Veteran National Medal on or about May 1997, were Honored by the State of Connecticut and issued the State of Connecticut Military War Time Medal by former Governor Jody Rell; and

WHEREAS, many Lao/Hmong Soldiers escaped and immigrated to the United States of America where they became citizens, went to work, raised their families, educated their children, became voters and were not given housing, education or other amenities as are many immigrants of present days and are still asking for the basic items of recognition listed below forty years after the end of the war; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that AMVETS honors the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the Lao / Hmong Secret Gorilla Forces, who operated under the orders and control of the United States CIA in Laos and Cambodia where by agreement our United States troops were not to be deployed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that AMVETS encourages the Congress of the United States to pass into law a bill which provides for the recognition of the Lao / Hmong Soldiers, who fought under the direct control of the CIA Agency of the U.S. Government or any other authorized Agency of the United States Government. This recognition is to include burial with military honors in military cemeteries within the United States of America and basic health care within the Veterans Administration Health Care System.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Armed Services and Military Liaison.....ADOPT AMEND REJECT NONE
Floor Action.....ADOPTED ADOPTED (as amended) REJECTED TABLED