

By Mr. Lombard of Fitchburg, petition of Gerald P. Lombard and other members of the House for adoption of resolutions by the General Court honoring the prisoners of war returned from the Vietnam conflict. Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Three.

RESOLUTIONS HONORING OUR RETURNED PRISONERS OF WAR.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 *Whereas,* The historic signing of the Paris Peace Accord on
2 January 27, 1973, ending the Vietnam Conflict, gave a surge of
3 hope to the families of the Prisoners of War and the people of the
4 Commonwealth who had been anxiously awaiting the return of
5 these heroic men from Massachusetts who had given so much of
6 themselves; and

7 *Whereas,* As the Prisoners of War were released and headed
8 for home, their faith and patriotism were evident in their very
9 bearing and attitude as they were officially greeted at Clark Air
10 Base on their first leg of a long journey, after years of isolation
11 and internment, to their loved ones and to the Country they had
12 served so nobly and well; and

13 *Whereas,* Navy Captain Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr. seemed to
14 epitomize their individual and collective feelings in his remarks as
15 he landed; "We are happy to have the opportunity to serve our
16 Country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grate-
17 ful to our Commander-in-Chief and to our Nation for this day.
18 God Bless America"; and

19 *Whereas,* The Massachusetts General Court is desirous of ex-
20 pressing in a special way its gratitude and the gratitude of the
21 citizens of the Commonwealth to the men of Massachusetts who
22 return as released Prisoners of War by joining with His Excellency
23 the Governor in a joint convention of the Senate and the House

24 of Representatives to be held in the chamber of the House of
25 Representatives on April 25, 1973 to which will be invited the
26 returned Prisoners of War and their families; and

27 *Whereas,* In so honoring these returned Prisoners of War, the
28 General Court and the Commonwealth will also honor the some
29 1400 sons of Massachusetts who made the supreme sacrifice and
30 all those who were war casualties, or who are still missing in
31 action, or who served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam
32 Conflict; therefore be it

33 *Resolved,* That the Massachusetts General Court extends its
34 warmest and sincerest expression of gratitude and welcome to
35 the returned Prisoners of War, and its best wishes to them and
36 their families in all their future endeavors; and be it further

37 *Resolved,* That copies of these resolutions be spread upon the
38 records of both the Massachusetts Senate and House of Represen-
39 tatives and that an engrossed copy thereof, suitably framed, be
40 presented to each returned Prisoner of War from Massachusetts.