



Proclamation

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County, Florida

WHEREAS, throughout our history, courageous men and women have donned the uniform of our Armed Forces and built a noble tradition of faithful and honorable service; *and*

WHEREAS, more than 58,000 service members made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War and, now and forever, their names are etched into two faces of black granite, a lasting memorial to those who bore conflict's greatest cost; thousands more were wounded; and more than 1,500 remain missing in action; *and*

WHEREAS, the families and friends of those missing service members continue to endure uncertainty concerning the fate of their loved ones who remain unaccounted for; *and*

WHEREAS, Vietnam Veterans contribute to our local community, state, and nation by offering skills, education, leadership, maturity, and dedication learned in military service; *and*

WHEREAS, Vietnam Veterans may be eligible for disability compensation and health care benefits for diseases the Veterans Administration recognizes as related exposure to Agent Orange; *and*

WHEREAS, the state of Florida is home to more than 490,000 Vietnam-era veterans, of which nearly 10,000 are Manatee County residents; *and*

WHEREAS, we can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to those historic men and women who served, were wounded, or even died in battle, and this presents the opportunity for the citizens of Manatee County to honor and thank our Vietnam Veterans for their service to our nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that March 29, 2014, shall be known, designated, and set aside as

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

in Manatee County, Florida; and further that the Board of County Commissioners does hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March 29, 2014, as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 25th day of March 2014.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Larry Bustle, Chairman

ATTEST: ***R. B. "Chips" Shore***
Clerk of Circuit Court

By: _____
Deputy Clerk