

By: Representatives Steverson, Hood,  
Massengill, Lancaster, Foster

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING VETERANS OF  
2 THE VIETNAM WAR WHO WERE EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE.

3 WHEREAS, our great nation was conceived by those who were  
4 willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure  
5 our individual and collective freedom, and the Magnolia State is  
6 especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women  
7 who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

8 WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States have, throughout  
9 the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of  
10 this nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones  
11 behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties  
12 guaranteed to all Americans and vanquishing those who threaten our  
13 way of life; and

14 WHEREAS, more than eight million citizens of this country  
15 honorably served during the Vietnam War, during which time Agent  
16 Orange was widely used in Vietnam by the United States Armed  
17 Forces as part of the herbicidal warfare program Operation Ranch  
18 Hand from 1961 until 1971; and



19           WHEREAS, nearly 20 million gallons of the orange powder were  
20 sprayed over the land from helicopters or low-flying aircraft,  
21 destroying vegetation and crops in order to deprive enemy  
22 guerrillas of food and cover for their activities and exposing 2.6  
23 million American soldiers to the herbicide and defoliant chemical;  
24 and

25           WHEREAS, Agent Orange is a dioxin and cancer-causing chemical  
26 that enters the body through physical contact or ingestion and  
27 moves into the human cell nucleus, where it attacks the genes and  
28 causes a number of serious illnesses, including leukemia,  
29 lymphoma, myeloma, ischemic heart disease, soft tissue sarcoma,  
30 amyloidosis, diabetes, and cancers of the throat, prostate, lung,  
31 and colon; and

32           WHEREAS, Agent Orange also causes genetic damage, and in some  
33 cases, the children and grandchildren of veterans exposed to Agent  
34 Orange have been born with spina bifida and other issues; and

35           WHEREAS, today, only 800,000 Vietnam veterans exposed to  
36 Agent Orange are alive, and approximately 300 deaths occur among  
37 these valiant veterans each day; and

38           WHEREAS, while fallen comrades are memorialized on The Wall  
39 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., those  
40 veterans who are victims of Agent Orange are not recognized as  
41 fatalities of the Vietnam War; and

42           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to honor these  
43 veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange, as they have made



44 untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we  
45 enjoy today and that our descendants will hopefully continue to  
46 cherish for generations to come:

47       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
48 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
49 THEREIN, That we recognize and honor the veterans of the Vietnam  
50 War who were exposed to Agent Orange for their courageous service  
51 to our nation as some of America's most heroic citizens.

52       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
53 furnished to members of the Capitol Press Corps.

