



*State of Missouri*

## *Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Missouri and our great nation owe a great debt to those valiant men and women who served our country in the Armed Forces; protecting our rights, our freedoms, our ideals, and our hopes; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950's, grew incrementally through the early 1960's and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965, continuing until the last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975; and

**WHEREAS**, by Presidential Proclamation, the USA Vietnam Anniversary Commemoration, through the United States Department of Defense, will commemorate this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary through November 11, 2025, as the Vietnam War period spanned multiple decades; and

**WHEREAS**, for the Commemoration, November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, is the period being utilized to recognize the service and sacrifice of those who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, as November 1, 1955, coincided with the official designation of Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam (MAAG-V) and May 15, 1975, marks the end of the battle precipitated by the seizure of the SS Mayaguez; and

**WHEREAS**, of the more than 58,000 service members who made the ultimate sacrifice, over 1,400 were from Missouri, and 35 Missourians are among the 1,589 who remain Missing in Action; and

**WHEREAS**, today there are approximately 6.4 million living Vietnam Veterans in the nation and over 151,000 call Missouri their home; and

**WHEREAS**, today we thank and honor Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, making no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period, as all were called to serve and none could self-determine where they were stationed.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI do hereby recognize the

### **VIETNAM WAR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

in recognition and tribute to Vietnam Veterans and their families and further encourage all Missourians to thank and honor Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2019.



*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
SECRETARY OF STATE