

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John A. Hart, Jr.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to Recognize the Flag of the Former Republic of Vietnam.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John A. Hart, Jr.

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Suffolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S01868 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO RECOGNIZE THE FLAG OF THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

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 people of the former Republic of Vietnam were valiant in their resistance to the
- 2 aggression of communist North Vietnam, and thousands of Vietnamese men and women made the
- 3 ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom;

- 4 WHEREAS, Many officers and enlisted personnel of the former Republic of Vietnam, as well as teachers,
- 5 intellectuals, and artists, were imprisoned as enemies of the state; and

- 6 WHEREAS, The current government of Vietnam continues to harass, interrogate, and arrest individuals
- 7 advocating democracy;

- 8 WHEREAS, The flag of the free Vietnamese people consists of three horizontal stripes of red upon a field
- 9 of gold, and this flag is an eternal symbol of the hope and love of freedom for all people of Vietnamese
- 10 descent, just as the American flag symbolizes these virtues for citizens

11 across the United States;

12 WHEREAS, Dating back to 1948, the red and gold striped flag has a history in Vietnam and is a broader
13 symbol of resilience, freedom, and democracy for the Vietnamese-American community;

14 WHEREAS, This flag remains as a poignant reminder of the threat of communism and the imperative of
15 remaining vigilant in opposition to tyranny of all forms and to actively support human rights;

16 WHEREAS, The end of the Vietnam conflict produced an exodus of over two million Vietnamese seeking
17 political asylum in the free world who bravely risked their lives to live under the prosperity of
18 democracy;

19 WHEREAS, Many of these refugees settled in Massachusetts, and thousands of Vietnamese Americans
20 and residents of Vietnamese descent live in Massachusetts;

21 WHEREAS, Massachusetts's Vietnamese-American community has a long history of and makes significant
22 contributions to the cultural, religious, and political realms and the business and economic development
23 of Massachusetts;

24 WHEREAS, The legislature does hereby recognize that the people of the former Republic of Vietnam,
25 also known as South Vietnam, were valiant in their resistance to the aggression of the communist North
26 Vietnam;

27 WHEREAS, The legislature further finds that refugees from the former Republic of Vietnam who
28 emigrated to the United States of America and settled in the commonwealth of Massachusetts should
29 be honored and remembered for their sacrifices; and

30 SECTION 1. The only flag depicting the country of Vietnam that may be displayed in any state-sponsored
31 public function or any public institution of learning shall be the flag of the former Republic of Vietnam.