March 28, 2017

The Honorable Linda Sanchez
United States House of Representatives
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy, we would like to pledge our support for House Resolution 214, expressing support for designation of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. This bill honors and recognizes the contributions of veterans who served in Vietnam.

Members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961. By 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached. Only by 1973 did the US complete the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam.

Some 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces were wounded. In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was created in D.C. to commemorate those members of the Armed Forces who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam.

Many of the members of the Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully to their country during the way were caught upon their return home in crossfire of public debate about the involvement of the US in the Vietnam War. The establishment of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day on the last Saturday of March of 2017 would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military and Veteran community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who served our great nation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 703-548-5800 or at michael.little@ausn.org.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Little

Director of Legislative Affairs