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Final Report of the Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags

Maine State Legislature

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Christopher Spruce
Maine State Legislature

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**Final Report
of the
Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans
in the
State House Hall of Flags
November 2000**

Staff:

**Christopher Spruce
Legislative Analyst
Office of Policy & Legal Analysis
Maine Legislature

(207)287-1670**

Members:

**General Earl Adams, co-chair
Mr. Donald Simoneau, co-chair
Mr. Barry McCrum
Ms. Ramona Naragon
Mr. Frank Soares**

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Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags

Final Report to the 119th Legislature Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags

The Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags, pursuant to Sec. 6 of Resolves 1999, Chapter 113 (see Appendix A), submits this final report to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council. The commission's five members met in public sessions on Monday, September 25, 2000 and Tuesday, October 17, 2000. Attached are summaries (Appendices B and C) of the commission's deliberations during those meetings.

The commission has consulted with Mr. Earle Shettleworth, chair of the State House and Capitol Park Commission. The commission and Mr. Shettleworth have viewed possible locations in the State House Hall of Flags for the placement of a plaque honoring Vietnam Veterans. The commission has pledged to continue to consult the State House and Capitol Park Commission as it considers possible locations and designs for the plaque and flag or flags honoring Vietnam War veterans.

At its October 17, 2000 meeting, the commission voted to request the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to submit emergency legislation to the 120th Legislature to amend Chapter 113 of Resolves 1999. The legislation proposes to amend the final reporting date for the committee, extending it to December 1, 2001. The proposed deadline extension is retroactive to November 1, 2000. The commission unanimously supported this request for the following reasons:

1. The commission did not have a full complement of members until August 29, 2000 and was not able to hold its first meeting until September 25, 2000.
2. The commission has elected to invite artists to submit design proposals for the plaque to be placed in the Hall of Flags. The process of soliciting designs, selecting a design, raising funds to support production of the plaque, and receiving the completed plaque cannot be completed by November 1, 2000, the commission's deadline for submission of its final recommendation. Resolves 1999, chapter 113 makes no provision for an extension of the commission's reporting deadline, thus requiring additional legislation to allow the commission to continue its work.

3. Renovations to the State House have necessitated the removal and temporary storage of most historical items, artwork and plaques displayed in the Hall of Flags. Any plaque or flag recommended by the commission to honor veterans of the Vietnam War cannot be placed in the Hall of Flags until renovations are completed in the summer of 2002.
4. The Legislative Council has established a Hall of Flags Committee comprised of eight legislators who are charged with making recommendations regarding the redecoration of the Hall of Flags. The Commission to Recognize Vietnam Veterans in the State House Hall of Flags has pledged to work closely with the Hall of Flags Committee in carrying out the commission's duties.

We have attached to this document a draft (Appendix D) of the legislation to extend the commission's reporting deadline. (The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management will submit this legislation as a department bill in the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.) Pending the adoption by the 120th Legislature of legislation to extend the commission's final reporting date, the commission plans to continue its efforts to complete its duties as assigned by the 119th Legislature.