

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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November 13, 2024  
Start: 11:14 a.m.  
Recess: 11:21 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Robert F. Holden, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola  
Kristy Marmorato  
Sandy Nurse  
Vickie Paladino

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sound check for the  
3 Committee on Veterans. Today's day is November 13,  
4 2024, being recorded by Danny Huang of the Council of  
5 Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet down, please.  
7 Good morning and welcome to today's New York City  
8 Council vote for the Committee on Veterans.

9 At this time, we ask that you silence all  
10 electronic devices and at no time is anyone to  
11 approach the dais.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: [GAVEL] Thank you,  
14 Sergeant. Good morning. I am Council Member Robert  
15 Holden, Chair of the Committee on Veterans.

16 Today, the Committee will vote on  
17 Resolution No. 441, sponsored by Council Member  
18 Kristy Marmorato, designating March 29th annually as  
19 Vietnam Veterans Day in the City of New York. This  
20 day, we will honor the bravery and sacrifice of the  
21 Americans who served and recognize the past and  
22 present dedication of their families and caregivers.  
23 The Committee originally heard this Resolution on  
24 June 18, 2024. As we just honored Veterans Day this  
25 week and observed November as National Veterans and

2 Military Families Appreciation Month, this Resolution  
3 is a timely recognition of our service members and  
4 their families. In this proclamation commemorating  
5 this month, President Biden said, "To all the mothers  
6 and fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and  
7 daughters, spouses and partners, and loved ones who  
8 stand alongside our veterans and service members, you  
9 are the solid steel spine that bears up under every  
10 burden and the courageous heart that rises to every  
11 challenge. Our nation has only one truly sacred  
12 obligation, to prepare those we send into harm's way  
13 and care for them and their families while they are  
14 deployed and when they return home."

15 Now, I would like to ask Council Member  
16 Marmorato to provide remarks on her Resolution.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Thank you,  
18 Chair Holden and Members of the Veterans Committee.  
19 It's a privilege to bring this Resolution forward, a  
20 Resolution that holds deep significance for me and  
21 for so many in District 13. Today, we're considering  
22 designating March 29th as Vietnam Veterans Day in New  
23 York City, a gesture that may seem simple, but one  
24 that has a profound meaning for our veterans and  
25 their families. The inspiration for this Resolution

2 came from a heartfelt conversation with one of my  
3 constituents, Oscar Ruiz, at a Veterans Breakfast in  
4 Morris Park. Oscar shared with me the struggle he and  
5 so many other Vietnam veterans have faced for years,  
6 especially the pain of returning home to a nation  
7 that did not offer them the recognition or support  
8 that they deserved. Hearing this story was powerful,  
9 a powerful reminder that as a city, we have a  
10 responsibility to do better. By designating March  
11 29th as Vietnam Veterans Day, we're making a  
12 commitment, a promise to our Vietnam veterans and  
13 their families that their service, sacrifice, and  
14 resilience will not be forgotten. This day will serve  
15 as a constant reminder that New York City honors  
16 them, sees them, and values the contributions they  
17 continue to make in our communities. Passing this  
18 Resolution is about more than adding a date to our  
19 City's calendar. It's about restoring the respect and  
20 honor our Vietnam veterans have always deserved but  
21 are too often denied. True honor is more than a  
22 statement. It's a commitment to support and recognize  
23 those who have served not just on one day, but every  
24 day. Even today, I'm proud that in District 13, we  
25 are hosting a Department of Veterans Service event in

2 our office to provide support for all veterans and  
3 their families. It's one of many ways my District is  
4 committed to standing with our veterans and honoring  
5 their legacy of service. I ask my Colleagues on the  
6 Committee to support this Resolution and help move it  
7 forward to a full Council vote. Let's pass this for  
8 Oscar and every other Vietnam veteran who deserves to  
9 feel the City's gratitude. I'd like to take a moment  
10 to thank Regina Paul, April Cardena, and to all of  
11 our vets out there. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you, Council  
13 Member. For those of us who lived through the Vietnam  
14 War, it remains an indelible memory, and we all  
15 remember the nightly newsreels, the people who knew  
16 with boots on the ground, the protests in the streets  
17 and on campuses, and the names of the faraway places  
18 that became synonymous with battle and sacrifice were  
19 all part of our everyday lives and then we'd get the  
20 scroll of the casualties of the day on TV every night  
21 on the nightly news. So, the service members who  
22 returned home often did not receive the accolades  
23 given to troops from previous wars, and that's been  
24 really the symbol of the Vietnam War. It was a very  
25 unpopular war at the time, but the service members

2 who went there and served, again, did not come back  
3 to parades. Many struggled to speak about what they  
4 endured, and some, for many, the struggle continues.  
5 The Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in  
6 Washington serves as a stark reminder of over 58,000  
7 service members who were killed in the war, and we  
8 must not forget the 1,600 service members who remain  
9 missing.

10 I want to take a moment to thank my Staff  
11 and the Committee Staff for their hard work in  
12 preparing for today's hearing and vote, Daniel  
13 Kurzyna, my Chief-of-Staff; John LaRosa to my left  
14 here, the Committee's Legislative Counsel; Regina  
15 Paul, the Committee's Policy Analyst who drafted the  
16 Resolution; and Ross Goldstein, the Committee's  
17 Financial Analyst.

18 I just want to recognize my Colleagues  
19 who are on the Veterans Committee who are present  
20 today, Council Member Joann Ariola, Council Member  
21 Vickie Paladino, Council Member Sandy Nurse, and  
22 Council Member Marmorato.

23 Now, we'll have the vote. Billy, you  
24 ready?

1 COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
3 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
4 vote, Committee on Veterans, Resolution 441. Chair  
5 Holden.

6 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I proudly vote aye  
11 and congratulate Council Member Marmorato. Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I, too, proudly  
14 support this and vote aye, and thank you, Kristy  
15 Marmorato, for bringing this up. The Vietnam War has  
16 touched us all in so many ways. Thank you for this.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

18 Marmorato.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: I vote aye.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
22 vote of five in the affirmative, zero in the  
23 negative, and no abstentions, Resolution is adopted  
24 by the Committee. Mr. Chair, that is a full  
25 Committee.

2 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you, and thank  
3 you for all, and thank you, Council Member Marmorato,  
4 again for this great Reso., and this hearing is now  
5 closed. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date November 15, 2024