**Proclamation**

Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary is a nationally recognized non-profit organization and the world’s largest women's patriotic service organization.

Whereas, they are a strong advocate for veterans’ issues, and know that freedom isn’t free.

Whereas, it is from this place of appreciation they work to protect our country’s founding values and to honor those who put their lives on the line for us.

Whereas, although Vietnam Veterans risked their lives for their country, they did not get the welcome home they deserved 40 years ago.

Whereas, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 626 respectfully requests March 30, 2013 be declared “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”.

Whereas, the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct military support to the Government of South Vietnam to defend itself against the growing Communist threat from North Vietnam;

Whereas, members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1961;

Whereas, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

Whereas, by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;

Whereas more than 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;

Whereas, the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the United States public to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of such veterans;

Whereas, the City of Fort Worth supports the establishment of a ‘‘Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day’’ as an appropriate way to honor those members of the United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, the City of Fort Worth agrees March 30, 2013, would be an appropriate day to establish as ‘‘Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day”.