



## The State of Texas House of Representatives

H.R. No. 522

### R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The qualities of courage and loyalty are not limited to the brave men and women who have proven themselves in war, and no example better illustrates this point than the combat service of the war dogs of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 4,000 dogs served with the United States Armed Forces during that conflict and some 500 died in battle; they are among America's forgotten heroes, dogs that served as scouts, sentries, and trackers, and even water dogs that were trained to locate enemy divers; and

WHEREAS, The varied and vital roles played by these faithful animals throughout the Vietnam War have been largely forgotten by all except the soldiers who were their handlers and the nearly 10,000 men whose lives were saved by the war dogs of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Unlike the dogs that served in World War II, the war dogs of Vietnam were left behind with other military equipment when the United States pulled out of the country; some were euthanized and some were handed over to the South Vietnamese Army, but fewer than 200 dogs were returned from overseas; and

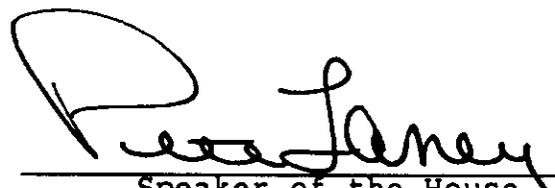
WHEREAS, The members of the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association and the makers of the documentary, War Dogs, America's Forgotten Heroes, seek to increase awareness among American citizens of the important role the dogs had in the war; to that end, the association and a number of corporate sponsors are raising funds to build monuments in Riverside, California, and Washington, D.C., depicting a soldier standing by his dog in front of an inscribed wall honoring the dogs that have served in all wars; and

WHEREAS, These remarkable animals have never before been honored for their bravery and service, and it is indeed appropriate that they be remembered at this time; now, therefore, be it

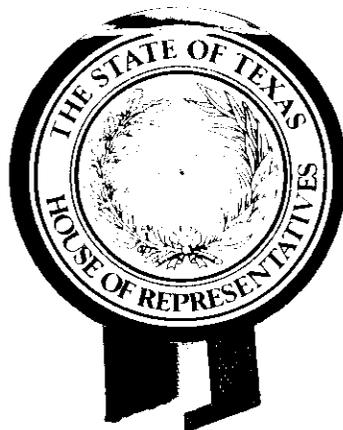
RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 77th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the war dogs of Vietnam and their special place in history and extend to the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association best wishes for success with this worthy project.

Morrison

H.R. No. 522

  
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 522 was adopted by the House on March 14, 2001, by a non-record vote.





Chief Clerk of the House

# **House Resolution #522**

## **"THE WAR DOGS OF VIETNAM"**

**House Of Representatives**

**Austin, Texas**

**May 11, 2001**

**Larry Chilcoat (Geisha A871)**

**VDHA Member #715**

**Victoria, Texas**

**Geanie Morrison**

**State Representative District 30**

**Victoria, Texas**



**Larry P Chilcoat**

10/17/2002 08:03 AM



To: vietnam.center@ttu.edu  
cc: (bcc: Larry P Chilcoat/HO/DuPont)  
Subject: The Vietnam Center

I served as an Air Force Sentry Dog Handler in Vietnam in 1969-70.

A representative of the Vietnam Center spoke to my veterans group (Vietnam Dog Handlers Association) at our reunion in St. Louis last week. I would like to contribute the documentation supporting a recent honor I achieved. I struggled for 5 years to get a Texas State Representative to introduce a Resolution in the House recognizing the lives that War Dogs saved in Vietnam, and supporting a national War Dog Memorial in Washington, D.C.

House Resolution #522, THE VIETNAM WAR DOGS, sponsored by Geanie Morrison (State Rep - Victoria) was read on the floor of the House on May 22, 2001. I have a copy of the Resolution with a picture of myself and Rep. Morrison on the podium after the reading. Is this something The Center would be interested in having? If so please advise as to how I should proceed.

Thanks, Larry Chilcoat  
email: larry.p.chilcoat@usa.dupont.com



Vietnam Archive <livna@TTU.EDU> on 10/17/2002 02:04:34 PM

To: Larry P Chilcoat/HO/DuPont@DuPont  
cc:  
Subject: Dog Handlers

Dear Mr. Chilcoat:

Thank you for your message to the Vietnam Archive. We would be happy to receive your materials. You can send them to our office at:

The Vietnam Archive  
Texas Tech University  
Special Collections Room 108  
15th and Detroit  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1041

I would also like to invite you to participate in our oral history project. If you are willing to be interviewed about your experiences in Vietnam, please let me know and we can begin preparations.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Steve Maxner  
Assistant Archivist  
Oral Historian

# THE VICTORIA ADVOCATE

154TH YEAR — NO. 128

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1999

www.VictoriaAdvocate.com

74 PAGES — \$1.25

## War dogs saved many lives in Vietnam

It will bring tears to your eyes to see the story of the "War Dogs."

War dogs saved many lives in Vietnam and were left there when the United States pulled out, dogs like "Geisha," a German shepherd which served sentry duty on the airbase at Cam Ranh Bay with handler Larry Chilcoat of Victoria.

Geisha was one of some 4,000 dogs that served during the war — scout dogs, sentry dogs, tracker dogs, and even water dogs that were specially trained to locate enemy divers — dogs that are credited with saving thousands of lives during the long conflict.

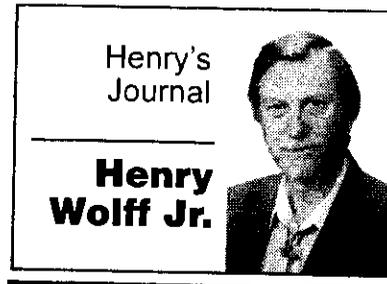
Some 500 died in battle, along

with 263 handlers.

They are among America's forgotten heroes, except among the men who served as their handlers or those whose lives were saved by the heroic canines.

The "War Dogs" film, which will be shown at 9 p.m. Monday on the Discovery channel, is a touching story of these unsung heroes.

While I remember reading a story about war dogs many years ago, one by the collie dog author Albert Payson Terhune, it never occurred to me that dogs had such an important role in Vietnam until Chilcoat sent me a copy of the "War Dogs" video with a note that he believed



he had a story that I would like.

"Though out the history of warfare," he wrote, "dogs have gone into combat or have been used in direct support of combat operations."

Sentry dogs like Geisha are used

primarily as a defense against saboteurs and espionage agents and are trained to be hostile and aggressive toward all persons except their handlers.

Chilcoat, son of Jane Chilcoat and the late Pearl Harbor survivor Joe Chilcoat, enlisted in the Air Force in 1967 and was trained as a security policeman and sentry dog handler. He was sent to Vietnam in 1969 and was there a year.

"I was introduced to Geisha three days after arriving," he says. "Her previous handler had been rotated back to the states."

He has no idea what eventually happened to her, the war dogs hav-

ing been left behind with "other military equipment" when the United States was pulling out of Vietnam, some of the dogs having been put to sleep while others were turned over to the South Vietnamese Army.

"At the time there was a rule that no dogs could be returned from overseas," Chilcoat notes, "a rule that has since been changed."

One of the handlers who was featured in the film said he participated because he felt the American people should know that it was

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Contributed Photo

Larry Chilcoat of Victoria is pictured above with "Geisha" at the war dog cemetery on an air base in Vietnam.

# WAR DOGS

Continued from Page 1A

wrong to have abandoned the dogs since they had saved so many lives.

"And," Chilcoat says, "I express the same sentiments."

He still carries a picture of Geisha in his wallet.

The dogs and handlers became very close and he recalls weekends when he would take Geisha to the beach on the South China Sea for a holiday from duty.

"It was good for the dog's coat to get in sea water," he says.

While there is some actual battle footage in the film, many scenes of heroic bravery on the part of the war dogs are re-enacted in a way that is as real as if they had been

filmed as the events happened, and there are some very touching interviews with those who knew the dogs best.

Chilcoat belongs to the Vietnam Dog Handlers Association which has a primary goal of making the American people aware of the important role that the dogs had in the war.

"It was felt that a documentary would be the best way to present the story," he notes. "In early 1998, Nature's Recipe Pet Foods agreed to sponsor the making of the film. The actor Martin Sheen agreed to narrate it."

Chilcoat attended the world premier of the film in Hollywood before its initial release to television audiences in February.

"It was a 'welcome home' like no other," he says. "The handlers who attended were treated like 'The Heroes who Handled the Heroes.'"

The association and sponsoring pet food company are also in the process of raising \$2 million to build identical war dog monuments in Riverside, Ca., and Washington, D.C. Each will feature a soldier standing with his dog by an inscribed wall honoring the dogs of all wars.

"I am very proud to have played a small part in making the film happen," Chilcoat says. "These dogs not only saved lives — they shared the lives and the hearts of their handlers."

The picture in his wallet has been there now for 30 years.