Resolution Supporting Recognition of the Vietnamese-American Heritage and Freedom Flag

WHEREAS the end of our Vietnam War produced an exodus of over 2,000,000 Vietnamese people seeking a new life; and

WHEREAS many of those refugees settled in King County, where an estimated 48,000 Vietnamese-Americans and others of Vietnamese descent live and have a long history of contributing to the business, economic development, and culture of the county and its cities; and

WHEREAS Vietnamese-Americans own and operate approximately 3,000 businesses in Washington that have gross sales and receipts of $446 million annually, while paying $56 million in taxes per year and employing many Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS Vietnamese-Americans have excelled in engineering, government, architecture, education, medicine, acting, music, sculpture, and writing; and

WHEREAS the City of Seattle's quality of life has been and is greatly enhanced by its Vietnamese-American community; and

WHEREAS the vast majority of Vietnamese-Americans embrace the Vietnamese-American Heritage and Freedom flag as a symbol of their heritage and promotion of freedom and democracy in their country of origin; and

WHEREAS recognition of the Vietnamese-American Heritage and Freedom Flag is a recognition of the more than 58,000 American service-men and -women who lost their lives in defense of liberty, and of the many thousands of living Vietnam War veterans who likewise deserve our thanks and respect; and

WHEREAS the mayors of three King County cities, including Seattle, have issued proclamations recognizing the valuable contributions of their respective Vietnamese-American communities, and further recognizing the flag that serves as their symbol; and

WHEREAS, in this 40th anniversary year of the end of U.S. military involvement in Vietnam, it is fitting that more formal recognition be granted to the continuing contributions of our Vietnamese-American communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we commend the Seattle City Council for recognizing the Vietnamese-American Heritage and Freedom Flag of the Vietnamese-American community, and we support its display at community events and appropriate locations in Seattle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage other cities and counties to similarly recognize the Vietnamese-American Heritage and Freedom flag as the symbol of our nation’s Vietnamese-American community.

Adopted June 23, 2015, by the King County Democratic Central Committee

Based on resolutions adopted by the 11th, 34th and 37th LDs.
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