

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 321

Commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States
and Vietnam on July 11, 2025.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 15, 2025

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following
resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between
the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 2025.

Whereas, since the end the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have resettled in the United States and built vibrant communities across the United States, which contribute to the rich diversity of our Nation;

Whereas the joint efforts across the administrations of President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush to address questions surrounding United States service members missing in action (MIA) set the foundation for the normalization of bilateral relations between the United States and Vietnam;

Whereas, between 1991 to 1993, the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs of the Senate conducted public hearings and issued an extensive report on the prisoner of

war (POW) and MIA issue, helping to lay the domestic political foundation for the breakthroughs in subsequent United States-Vietnam relations;

Whereas the efforts to identify and return the remains of service members missing in action on both the United States and Vietnamese sides, alongside unexploded ordnance removal, dioxin remediation, disability programs supporting survivors impacted by these war remnants, and efforts to continue public education on these topics, collectively built the foundation for ongoing war legacy programs in Southeast Asia, which are a vital component of the bilateral relationship between Vietnam and the United States;

Whereas section 521 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103–236) expressed the Senate’s support for the normalization of relations with Vietnam and sent an important political signal to the Executive branch on moving ahead with diplomatic normalization;

Whereas, on February 4, 1994, U.S. President Bill Clinton lifted of the trade embargo in place since the end of the Vietnam War, in turn paving the way to the announcement of a normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 1995;

Whereas significant progress has been made in the bilateral relationship since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam, leading to significant cooperation between the government and peoples of the United States and Vietnam in an array of areas, extending to political, economic, and cultural ties;

Whereas, in January of 2001, Congress passed the bipartisan Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of Public Law 106–554) to promote reconciliation between the United States and Vietnam through an international exchange program between the 2 countries, which allowed Vietnamese nationals to pursue advanced studies in the United States and United States citizens to teach in the fields of science, mathematics, medicine, and technology in Vietnam;

Whereas, in September and October of 2001, respectively, the House of Representatives and the Senate approved measures to implement a bilateral trade agreement negotiated during the Presidency of Bill Clinton, which was subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 3, 2001;

Whereas, in December 2006, Congress granted permanent normal trade relations status to Vietnam under title IV of division D of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–432);

Whereas, on July 25, 2013, President Barack Obama and Vietnam President Truong Tan Sang agreed to establish a comprehensive partnership between Vietnam and the United States based on the principles of respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, respect for political institutions, independence and sovereignty, and each other's territorial integrity;

Whereas, on May 23, 2016, President Barack Obama announced the removal of remaining United States restrictions on the sale of lethal weapons and related services to Vietnam, a move that followed President George W. Bush's 2007 decision to permit case-by-case sales of non-lethal defense items and defense services and President

Obama’s 2014 decision to partially ease United States restrictions on the transfer of lethal weapons and articles to Vietnam;

Whereas President Donald Trump became the first United States President to visit Vietnam twice in one presidential term, including a November 2017 state visit during which President Trump and Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang—

(1) concluded a new Three Year Plan of Action for Defense Cooperation to increase bilateral naval activities;

(2) agreed on the first visit of the United States aircraft carrier to Vietnam in 2018;

(3) celebrated the conclusion of a joint effort to clean dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment in Da Nang, Vietnam;

(4) welcomed the United States commitment to contribute to remediation efforts at Bien Hoa Airport; and

(5) took significant steps forward with an increase in direct investment in Vietnam with an emphasis on energy cooperation;

Whereas on September 10, 2023, President Joe Biden and General Secretary Nguyen Phú Trọng issued a Joint Communiqué that—

(1) officially upgraded the bilateral relationship to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

(2) recognized considerable progress made in the bilateral relationship in a short 10-year period; and

(3) underscored the fundamental principles guiding United States–Vietnam relations, including respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, and respect for each other’s independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam have formed a partnership in promoting peace, cooperation, prosperity, and security in the Indo-Pacific region, including by—

(1) recognizing the strategic importance of free and open access to the South China Sea; and

(2) continuing programs by initiated during the administrations of President Obama, President Trump, and President Biden to help Vietnam enhance its maritime capabilities;

Whereas, throughout these positive developments, Congress has consistently offered strong bipartisan support to the continuation and eventual completion of war legacy programs in Vietnam as the basis on which the bilateral relationship was established 30 years ago;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam will continue to deepen cooperation in a wide range of areas, including political and diplomatic relations, economic trade and investment, science and technology, education and health, cultural and people-to-people ties, defense and security, regional and global issues, and the promotion and protection of human rights, to ensure the interests of the people in the United States and in Vietnam and to contribute to peace, stability, cooperation, and prosperity around the world: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes—

3 (A) the significance of the 30th anniversary

4 sary of normalization of the bilateral relationship

5 between the United States and Vietnam;

6 and

1 (B) the strong and enduring relationship
2 built by United States and Vietnam based on
3 mutual respect, trust, and a shared commit-
4 ment to peace and prosperity;

5 (2) honors the contributions of Vietnamese
6 Americans to the United States during the past 50
7 years, including—

8 (A) their tireless commitment to strength-
9 ening ties among different communities, sec-
10 tors, businesses, youths, and people's organiza-
11 tions between the United States and Vietnam;
12 and

13 (B) facilitating reconciliation and economic
14 prosperity between the 2 countries;

15 (3) honors—

16 (A) the service of members of the United
17 States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam,
18 including those who gave their lives in the con-
19 flict; and

20 (B) United States veteran-led initiatives
21 established and dedicated to engaging in rec-
22 onciliation efforts with the Vietnamese people;

23 (4) expresses the commitment of the United
24 States to the sustained continuation of funding and
25 operational support to war legacy programs in Viet-

1 nam foundational to the bilateral relationship, in-
2 cluding—

3 (A) dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Air-
4 port;

5 (B) unexploded ordnance removal;

6 (C) support for persons with disabilities;

7 (D) capacity building in provincial and na-
8 tional efforts on mine action; and

9 (E) accounting for Vietnamese missing and
10 fallen soldiers from the war;

11 (5) acknowledges the significant progress in
12 various areas of cooperation, including political and
13 diplomatic relations, trade and economic ties, de-
14 fense and security, and people-to-people exchanges;

15 (6) reaffirms the commitment of the United
16 States to sustaining and building on the partnership
17 officially established in the U.S.-Vietnam Com-
18 prehensive Strategic Partnership in September
19 2023, underscored by the fundamental principles
20 guiding the bilateral relationship, including respect
21 for the United Nations Charter, international law,
22 and respect for each other's independence, sov-
23 ereignty, and territorial integrity; and

24 (7) expresses—

1 (A) the determination of the United States
2 to continue strengthening cooperation across
3 sectors; and

4 (B) the vital importance of the bilateral re-
5 lationship between the United States and Viet-
6 nam to addressing shared challenges and pro-
7 moting continued regional peace and stability in
8 the Indo-Pacific region.

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