COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Commissioner Charles Oddo
Meeting Date:	Thursday, March 28, 2013	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Proclamation honoring Vietnam Veterans and proclaiming March 29, 2013 as Vietnam Veterans Day.

Background/History/Details:

The Vietnam War had its genesis in November 1955 and was escalated in 1963 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. On March 29, 1973, the last United States troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct miliary involvement in the Vietnam War. It was considered by the United States government as a way to prevent a communist takeover of South Vietnam, and it was part of a larger Cold War strategy to contain communism internationally.

The Vietnam Veterans answered the call of their county and fought honorably. Unfortunately, many of the veterans were not welcomed home as heros, but instead they were insulted and ostracized upon their return.

This proclamation is an effort to set things right, to honor the veterans of the Vietnam War, and to offer a belated "Thank You" for the veterans' service to this country.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Proclamation honoring Vietnam Veterans and proclaiming March 29, 2013 as Vietnam Veterans

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	Yes	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

PROCLAMATION

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

WHEREAS, Many Americans, representing every state, race, gender and creed, are Veterans of the war in Vietnam who honored the call of duty by their government and their country by serving nobly and with honor in an unpopular war; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans fought admirably and heroically, risking lives and limbs, to secure peace and extend freedom to a people little known to most Americans, and to preserve American liberties to those who lived in Fayette County, Georgia and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Over 2,594,000 Americans, including 288,000 Georgians and 7,484 women, served within the borders of South Vietnam, while many more provided support; and

WHEREAS, 58,220 Americans paid the ultimate sacrifice when they were killed in action, 303,704 Veterans were wounded in action, 766 Veterans were prisoners of war, and 2,338 Veterans are still unaccounted for and considered missing in action; and

WHEREAS, Many Vietnam Veterans were wrongly ridiculed and ostracized upon their return home, when rather they should have received the heroes welcome they so justly deserved, and are the only Veterans never to have been welcomed home with dignity, appreciation, and thanks; and

WHEREAS, Fayette County along with most Americans earnestly and eagerly desires to offer belated thanks, heartfelt apologies, and deepest respect to our Vietnam Veterans who are the symbols of the very best that a nation may offer of itself; and

WHEREAS, March 29, 2013 marks the 40th Anniversary of the end of the United States' involvement in Vietnam,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLOVED that we, the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, proclaim Friday, March 29, 2013 as

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

and in so doing we humbly recognize and respect the unsurpassed valor and love of country displayed by our Veterans of the Vietnam War, who stand as examples to all Americans, and we call upon all Americans to respect and honor our family, friends, and neighbors who willingly gave of themselves during this conflict we call the Vietnam War.

So Proclaimed this 28th Day of March 2013

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

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Steve Brown, Chairman