

SENATE RESOLUTION 20

(By Senators Barrett, Rose, Thorne, Hamilton, and
Weld)

[Introduced January 28, 2026]

1 Recognizing and honoring victims of Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War.

2 Whereas, Our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their
3 personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom. The Mountain State
4 had the highest casualty rate of all the United States, and is especially proud to be the home of so
5 many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

6 Whereas, The citizens of the United States have, throughout the years, been called upon
7 to take up arms in defense of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones
8 behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all Americans and
9 vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

10 Whereas, Nearly nine million citizens of this country honorably served during the Vietnam
11 War, during which time Agent Orange was widely used in Vietnam by the United States armed
12 forces as part of the herbicidal warfare program Operation Ranch Hand from 1961 until 1971; and

13 Whereas, Nearly 20 million gallons of the chemical herbicide mixtures were sprayed over
14 the land from helicopters or low-flying aircraft, destroying triple canopy vegetation and crops to
15 deprive enemy guerrillas of food and cover for their activities and exposing 3.2 million American
16 soldiers to the herbicide and defoliant chemical; and

17 Whereas, Agent Orange is a dioxin and cancer-causing chemical that enters the body
18 through physical contact or ingestion and moves into the human cell nucleus, where it attacks the
19 genes and causes a number of serious illnesses including leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma,

1 ischemic heart disease, soft tissue sarcoma, amyloidosis, diabetes, and cancers of the throat,
2 prostate, lung, and colon; and

3 Whereas, Agent Orange also causes genetic damage, and in some cases, the children
4 and grandchildren of veterans exposed to Agent Orange have been born with spina bifida and
5 other abnormalities; and

6 Whereas, Today, only 800,000 Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange are alive, and
7 approximately 300 deaths occur among them every day; and

8 Whereas, While fallen comrades are memorialized at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in
9 Washington, D.C., those veterans who are victims of Agent Orange are not recognized as fatalities
10 of the Vietnam War; and

11 Whereas, It is most appropriate that we should honor these veterans to the full extent of
12 our ability, as they have made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve liberties that we enjoy
13 today, which our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate:*

15 That the Senate hereby recognizes and honors victims of Agent Orange during the
16 Vietnam War; and, be it

17 *Further Resolved,* That the Senate recognizes them for their courageous service to our
18 nation as some of America's most heroic citizens.