

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 295

Reps. Stone, Kuppa, Shannon, Thanedar, Sowerby, Steenland, Hertel, Brenda Carter, Sneller, Hope, Cherry, Glanville, Haadsma, Hood, Koleszar, Morse, Rogers, Witwer and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare May 14, 2022, as Hmong American Day in
2 the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The first Hmong families arrived in the United States
4 as refugees of war in 1976, with thousands settling in Michigan;
5 and

6 Whereas, During the Vietnam War, the Central Intelligence
7 Agency (CIA) and United States Armed Forces recruited, organized,
8 trained, and assisted Hmong forces to combat the North Vietnamese
9 Army and communist Pathet Lao forces; and

10 Whereas, Hmong guerrilla soldiers courageously fought

1 alongside Americans during the "Secret War" in Lao; and

2 Whereas, Thousands of Hmong men, women and children died in
3 Laos. Their deaths were unaccounted for, while their commitment to
4 rescuing downed American pilots and saving U.S. troops did not
5 waver; and

6 Whereas, When the U.S withdrew from Laos, the Hmong faced
7 harsh retribution from the communist government for their
8 involvement in the American war effort and many were ultimately
9 forced to flee their native land; and

10 Whereas, On May 14th, 1975, the last of the Hmong soldiers and
11 their families fled Laos for the Nam Phong refugee camp in
12 Thailand, later resettling in communities throughout the United
13 States, including in Michigan; and

14 Whereas, Michigan is home to a significant number of Hmong
15 refugees, after providing political asylum and citizenship because
16 of their unique contribution to American interests; and

17 Whereas, We recognize that our state is home to a significant
18 number of Hmong Americans and the importance of educating the
19 general public about the historic contributions of our Hmong
20 American residents; and

21 Whereas, The diversity of the Hmong people adds much to the
22 cultural fabric of our city, state and country, as they have shared
23 their traditions, food and practices of faith; and

24 Whereas, Today is an occasion to reflect upon the tremendous
25 heroism and sacrifice of our Hmong American community. We honor
26 their commitment to leadership, establishment of businesses and
27 contribution to the economic growth of our state; now, therefore,
28 be it

29 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of

1 this legislative body declare May 14, 2022, as Hmong American Day
2 in the state of Michigan.