

2003 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 23

March 13, 2003 – Introduced by Senators Welch, George, Zien, Brown, Harsdorf, Kanavas, Decker, M. Meyer, Carpenter, Hansen, Cowles and Roessler, cosponsored by Representatives Huebsch, Hundertmark, Ladwig, Kreibich, J. Wood, Musser, Petrowski, Vrakas, Plale, Schooff, Krug, Travis, Boyle, Balow, Krawczyk, Bies, Cullen, Plouff and Huber. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1	Relating to: declaring May 14 Hmong-Lao Appreciation Day.
2	Whereas, the Hmong-Lao, once an agrarian community from the mountainous
3	regions of northern Laos, were recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency to fight
4	for American interests, and thousands of Hmong–Lao men and young boys fought
5	bravely alongside Americans; and
6	Whereas, the primary missions of the Hmong-Lao were to rescue downed
7	American pilots, gather intelligence, safeguard U.S. radar installations, and conduct
8	both guerrilla and conventional combat; and
9	Whereas, when Americans withdrew from Vietnam in the early 1970s, the
10	Hmong–Lao were left to face the vengeance of the communist Lao and Vietnamese
11	governments, who sought to destroy Hmong–Lao in retaliation for their support of
12	the United States; and
13	Whereas, many Hmong–Lao fled Laos to live in refugee camps in Thailand and
14	then settled in the United States and other countries, of which more than 250,000
15	are living in the United States; and

2003 – 2004 Legislature – 2 –

1	Whereas, General Vang Pao and other Hmong-Lao soldiers and people in Laos
2	first fled Laos on May 14, 1975, to Thailand and then resettled in the United States
3	and other countries. There are estimated to be 500,000 Hmong and Lao Americans
4	in the United States in 2002. These numbers include the refugees who came from
5	Laos and Thailand and the subsequent children born to these refugees in the United
6	States in the last 26 years; and
7	Whereas, the U.S. government and Hmong and Lao soldiers and people worked
8	together to defend peace, security, freedom, and democracy for the United States and
9	the rest of the free world during the Vietnam War; and
10	Whereas, after the conclusion of the Vietnam War, thousands of Hmong and Lao
11	soldiers were arrested, imprisoned, and killed by the communist Lao and
12	Vietnamese governments; now, therefore, be it
13	Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the
14	Wisconsin legislature declare May 14 "Hmong-Lao Appreciation Day" for their
15	heroic contributions on behalf of the United States during the Vietnam War; and, be
16	it further
17	Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
18	resolution to the Lao Veterans of Wisconsin, to the president and secretary of the U.S.
19	senate, to the speaker and clerk of the U.S. house of representatives, and to each
20	member of the congressional delegation from this state attesting the adoption of this
21	joint resolution by the 2003 legislature of the state of Wisconsin.
22	(END)