HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The display of the flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the central campus of the University of Houston, as well as on other campuses of higher learning, has caused great distress to many members of the Vietnamese American community; and

WHEREAS, This flag, which features a yellow star on a red background, was first adopted by the Indochinese Communist Party in the mid-20th century; it represents a source of anguish to countless people who fled to the United States as a welcoming haven of liberty and tolerance; to these esteemed citizens, the display of this flag is interpreted as a lack of respect for their historic struggles; and

WHEREAS, In contrast, the Freedom and Heritage Flag symbolizes both the Vietnamese cultural heritage and a deeply rooted resilience and yearning for democracy; this flag, which bears three red stripes on a background of golden yellow, was flown for the first time at a ceremony marking the official recognition by France of Vietnamese unity and independence; and

WHEREAS, The University of Houston and other institutions of higher learning can express their respect for Vietnamese American culture and their support for the ideals of liberty and democracy by replacing the flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the Freedom and Heritage Flag; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas hereby urge the University of Houston and other institutions of
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1 higher education to cease displaying the red flag of the Socialist
2 Republic of Vietnam and to instead fly the golden yellow Freedom and
3 Heritage Flag that has been embraced by the Vietnamese American
4 community; and, be it further
5 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
6 copy of this resolution to the commissioner of higher education as
7 an expression of the sentiment of the house of representatives and
8 senate.

Vo
Pitts
Taylor
Alvarado
Bolton
Button
Davis of Dallas
Dutton
Frost
Geren
Guillen
Harper-Brown
Herrero
Hodge
Hughes
Isett
Keffer
Kolkhorst
Legler
Maldonado
Marquez
McClendon
Miller of Comal
Ortiz, Jr.
Paxton
Quintanilla
Rose
Shelton
Thibaut

Hilderbran
Dunnam
Alonzo
Bohac
Brown of Brazos
Chisum
Driver
Edwards
Gallego
Gonzalez Toureilles
Gutierrez
Hernandez
Hochberg
Hopson
Hunter
Jones
Kent
Laubenberg
Lewis
Mallory Caraway
Martinez
Merritt
Orr
Otto
Phillips
Rios Ybarra
Sheffield
Smith of Harris
Vaught
H.C.R. No. 258

David Dewhurst  
President of the Senate

John Sbona  
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 258 was adopted by the House on May 25, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, 0 present, not voting.

Robert Harper  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 258 was adopted by the Senate on May 30, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Sharon Brown  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 19 Jun ’09  
Date

Rick Perry  
Governor

Filed in the Office of the Secretary of State  
2 pm O’clock  
Jun 19 2009

Colly Shater, III