

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 109

Rep. Stone offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare May 14, 2023, 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 the state of
5 Michigan; 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
11 alongside Americans during the "Secret War" in Lao; and

12 Whereas, Thousands of Hmong men, women and children died in
13 Lao. Their deaths were unaccounted for, while their commitment to

1 rescuing downed American pilots and saving U.S. troops never
2 wavered; and

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

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

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

14 Whereas, The House of Representatives, recognizes that the
15 state of Michigan is home to a significant number of Hmong
16 Americans and the importance of educating the general public about
17 the historic contributions of our Hmong American residents; and

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

21 Whereas, Today, the House of Representatives joins in
22 reflecting on the tremendous heroism and sacrifice of our Hmong
23 American community; and

24 Whereas, We honor their commitment to leadership,
25 establishment of businesses, and contribution to the economic
26 growth of our state; now, therefore, be it

27 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
28 this legislative body declare May 14, 2023, as Hmong American Day
29 in the state of Michigan.