

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 175**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
216th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JULY 11, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Memorializes New Jersey congressional delegation to support the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing the New Jersey  
2 congressional delegation to support the “Blue Water Navy  
3 Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013” or similar legislation.

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, Currently, Navy veterans who served in Vietnam are  
6 unable to receive Veteran’s Administration (VA) disability or  
7 health benefits for medical issues related to the effects of Agent  
8 Orange due to federal law; and

9 **WHEREAS**, During the Vietnam War, the United States military  
10 sprayed approximately 20 million gallons of the herbicide Agent  
11 Orange, a toxic chemical with devastating effects and strong links  
12 to several forms of cancer and numerous neurological diseases; and

13 **WHEREAS**, While the “Agent Orange Act of 1991” (Pub.L.102-4)  
14 requires the VA to provide health and disability benefits to all  
15 veterans who served in active military, air, or naval service in the  
16 Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War and who have  
17 illnesses directly related to Agent Orange exposure, in 2002 the VA  
18 decided to provide benefits only to “boots on the ground” service  
19 members; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Agent Orange has been verified, through various studies  
21 and reports, as a wide-spreading chemical that was able to reach  
22 Navy ships through the air and waterborne distribution routes; and

23 **Whereas**, The “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013,”  
24 introduced in the United States House of Representatives as  
25 H.R.543, would restore VA benefits to approximately 250,000  
26 Navy veterans exposed to Agent Orange while serving in the  
27 Vietnam War; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Failure to pass the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans  
29 Act of 2013” or similar legislation could set a precedent to  
30 selectively provide certain groups with injury related medical care  
31 while denying other groups the same care; and

32 **Whereas**, It is altogether fitting and proper that the congressional  
33 delegation from the State of New Jersey support the “Blue Water  
34 Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013” or similar legislation in order  
35 to provide needed benefits to those Navy veterans who became ill  
36 as a result of their service to our country; now, therefore,

37

38 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
39 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

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41 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey respectfully  
42 memorializes all members of the New Jersey congressional  
43 delegation to support the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act  
44 of 2013” or similar legislation to provide Navy veterans who served  
45 in the Vietnam War with health and disability benefits for medical  
46 issues related to the effects of Agent Orange.

1       2. Duly authenticated copies of this concurrent resolution,  
2 signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and President of  
3 the Senate and attested to by the Clerk of the General Assembly and  
4 the Secretary of the Senate, shall be transmitted to each member of  
5 the Congressional delegation from the State of New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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10       This resolution memorializes the congressional delegation from  
11 the State of New Jersey to support the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam  
12 Veterans Act of 2013” or similar legislation to provide Navy  
13 veterans who served in the Vietnam War with health and disability  
14 benefits for medical issues related to the effects of Agent Orange.  
15 In previous sessions of Congress, similar legislation has been  
16 designated as the “Agent Orange Equity Act.”

17       A rule set by the Veteran’s Administration (VA) in 2002 limits  
18 VA health and disability benefits for medical issues related to  
19 exposure to Agent Orange to veterans who served with “boots on  
20 the ground” in the Vietnam War. Navy veterans are excluded from  
21 benefits, even through scientific evidence indicates that Agent  
22 Orange was able to reach Navy ships near the country through the  
23 water and air. Enactment of the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam  
24 Veterans Act of 2013” or similar legislation would reverse this  
25 policy and offer the appropriate benefits to all veterans who served  
26 in the Vietnam War.