

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

S.R. No. 28

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ)

DATE
01/10/2019

D-PG

Introduction
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

A Senate resolution

honoring Colonel TouLong Yang on his service in the Secret War in Laos during the Vietnam War.

WHEREAS, TouLong Yang was born in Ban Houi Chuang, Phoufa, in 1939 to District Chief Nou Yee Yang and Nhu Fang; and

WHEREAS, he began his military career in 1961 and was recognized as a capable person with great leadership skills and excellence in military tactics. He was trained as an elite member in guerrilla warfare, parachuting, and strategic air delivery of supplies; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, TouLong Yang was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and advanced to the rank of Captain in 1966 while working with Air America and Air Continental; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, he became the commander of the Auto Defense de Choc, ADC. His main objective was to protect the Royal family and supervise six zones of western Laos, including Luang Prabang, Sayabury, Luang Nam Tha, and Nam Bac to support the influx of 40,000 refugees; and

WHEREAS, TouLong Yang was promoted to Major in 1968, Lt. Colonel in 1970, and Colonel in 1973 while serving as the top officer commanding Group Mobile GM 21 (battalions 201, 202, and 206), GM 22 Brigade 13, GM 23, GM 25, and GM 27; and

WHEREAS, he was one of the very few Hmong-Lao Special Guerilla leaders with a direct tie to the United States Department during and after the Secret War in Laos; and

WHEREAS, after the Vientiane Treaty to cease fire between warring factions on February 21, 1973, Colonel TouLong Yang supervised the security details for the revered Hmong General Vang Pao, until they fled to Thailand in 1975 when Laos fell to the communist rule, and Colonel TouLong Yang was appointed by General Vang Pao to be his successor to lead the Hmong people seeking refuge in Thailand, and later assumed the position as Chair of Ban Vinai Refugee Camp until his departure to France in 1977; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, he moved his family to the United States, first arriving in Providence, Rhode Island, and made Milwaukee, Wisconsin, his longtime home, where he served in many capacities, supporting the growth of the Hmong-American community and veterans' organizations; and

WHEREAS, Colonel TouLong Yang currently resides in St. Paul, remaining active in the community as an adviser to Hmong-American organizations and leaders, including Minnesota State Senator Foug Hawj; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it commemorates the leadership and heroism of Colonel TouLong Yang, and recognizes his service in the Secret War in Laos during the Vietnam War.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to Colonel TouLong Yang.

Cal R. Ludeman
Secretary of the Senate

Paul E. Gazelka
Chair, Senate Committee on
Rules and Administration

Foung Hawj
State Senator, District 67

John A. Hoffman
State Senator, District 36

John Marty
State Senator, District 66

Jerry Newton
State Senator, District 37

Sandra L. Pappas
State Senator, District 65