

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 59

Introduced by Assembly Member Baca

April 26, 2005

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 59—Relative to California Native American Indian History Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 59, as introduced, Baca. California Native American History Month.

This measure would recognize the month of November 2005 as California Native American Indian History Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Native American Indians are the earliest settlers
2 of the territory of the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, This Earth has been home to millions of native
4 people since the beginning of known time; and

5 WHEREAS, Native American Indians believe that they
6 emerged into life and movement out of and into this place, and
7 their rich oral narratives offer an ancient voice to life in this land
8 before the arrival of immigrants from Europe, Africa, and Asia;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Long before the voyages of Christopher
11 Columbus or the development of the first English settlement at
12 Jamestown, diverse Native American Indian groups and tribes
13 developed their own language, literature, history, government,
14 dance, music, art, agriculture, and architecture; and

15 WHEREAS, Native American Indian languages are
16 sophisticated and rich in words that denote unique elements of

1 Native American Indian culture such as snowshoes, cedar plank
2 houses, toboggans, tobacco, sun goggles, cultural attire, and other
3 items; and

4 WHEREAS, Approximately 300 different languages existed in
5 the area that is now the United States and Canada, and there were
6 many other dialects of these original languages; and

7 WHEREAS, Many Native American Indians still speak their
8 native languages, thus enriching the vocabularies of all peoples;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Native American Indians gave our country words
11 such as Massachusetts, Mississippi, Alabama, Ohio, Iowa,
12 Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wyoming, and Native American Indian
13 languages also included a variety of words for agricultural
14 produce native to this land, including, but not limited to, corn,
15 squash, beans, potato, tomato, peanut, pumpkin, and watermelon;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Native American Indians developed the first
18 agricultural processes of our nation, including irrigation farming
19 that made the deserts, prairies, and plateaus blossom with
20 abundance; and

21 WHEREAS, The first literature and history of this land
22 originated from ancient stories about plant, animal, mountain,
23 river, and lake “peoples” who interacted with each other at the
24 beginning of time to make the world ready for human beings, and
25 these stories remain a part of American culture to this day; and

26 WHEREAS, Rabbit, Coyote, Wolf, Bear, Mountain Lion,
27 Eagle, Raven, and a host of other stories appear in Native
28 American Indian literature, and that literature speaks to us about
29 a creative time that was and is a part of the United States; and

30 WHEREAS, In ancient songs, Native American Indians still
31 sing of the creative time, and songs of mountains, rocks, rivers,
32 lakes, forests, and birds ring out across the land to this very day;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, It is through song, dance, and music that people
35 recreate their attachment to the land they consider sacred, and
36 that they believe was placed here at the beginning of time by a
37 great and wondrous spirit that is manifested to this day in our
38 country; and

39 WHEREAS, Native American Indian forms of art and
40 architecture have influenced our nation’s heritage, and

1 longhouses, Quonsets, A-framed lodges, pueblos, hogans, tepees,
2 and others are a part of the unique American experience; and

3 WHEREAS, Beadwork, quillwork, sculpture, painting, rock
4 art, bows, arrows, quivers, dresses, leggings, coats, baskets,
5 jewelry, and many other art forms emerged out of the Native
6 American Indian tradition and are still highly prized in our nation
7 today; and

8 WHEREAS, For thousands of years before the arrival of other
9 groups of settlers, Native American Indians established intricate
10 modes of transportation, communication, and commerce, and
11 some of those forms of transportation, communication, and
12 commerce spanned huge portions of North America from
13 California to Texas, Washington to Minnesota, Oregon to
14 Missouri, Louisiana to South Carolina, and Wisconsin to New
15 York; and

16 WHEREAS, Native American Indians established trails that
17 are still used today as interstate, state, and county highways, and
18 merchants, farmers, artists, hunters, and musicians used these and
19 other arteries of travel to support their families and people; and

20 WHEREAS, Native American Indians continue to traverse
21 these routes, and remember through stories, songs, and music the
22 significance of places and peoples that have affected their lives;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Native American Indians enjoy many forms of
25 government, and continue to revere the principles that have
26 always been held so dear to their cultures; and

27 WHEREAS, An emphasis on freedom, justice, patriotism, and
28 representative government have always been elements of Native
29 American Indian culture; and

30 WHEREAS, Native American Indians have shown their
31 willingness to fight and die for the United States in foreign lands;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Native American Indians honor the American
34 flag at every powwow, at council meetings, and at many
35 gatherings, and remember veterans through song, music, and
36 dance; and

37 WHEREAS, Native American Indians use songs to honor the
38 men and women of this country who have fought for freedom;
39 and

1 WHEREAS, Native American Indians love the land that has
2 nurtured their parents, grandparents, and unnamed elders since
3 time began, and they honor the Earth that has brought life to the
4 people since time immemorial; and

5 WHEREAS, California is home to more Native American
6 Indian tribes than anywhere in the United States, and their history
7 forms an integral part of California history and needs to be told;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, California Native American Indian people
10 suffered numerous atrocities and strife as various cultures
11 converged; and

12 WHEREAS, Native American Indians have given much to the
13 United States and to California, and in recognition of this fact, it
14 is fitting that we return the honor and recognize Native American
15 Indians for all of their offerings to this beloved land; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
18 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
19 recognizes the month of November 2005 as California Native
20 American Indian History Month; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
22 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.