

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 181

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 161

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 181—Relative to California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 14, 2010.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 181, Logue. California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate November 2010 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It would recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage to our state and afford all Californians the opportunity to understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history, shared principles, religion, faith, and role Sikh Americans play in furthering mutual understanding and respect among all peoples.

WHEREAS, California and our nation are at once blessed and enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our residents; and

WHEREAS, Among this unprecedented diversity in California, there reside an estimated 200,000 Americans of Sikh origin, comprising nearly 40 percent of the nation's estimated Sikh population; and

WHEREAS, Sikh immigrants have resided in California for more than a century, with the first Sikh immigrants believed to have labored on railroad construction projects, in lumber mills, and in the agricultural heartlands of the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys; and

WHEREAS, The first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in California was established in Stockton in 1912, and Sikh temples have since been established in communities throughout California; and

WHEREAS, While Sikh Americans have distinguished themselves in numerous areas of endeavor, they have demonstrated particular success in the areas of agriculture, trucking, medicine, and in the creation of small, family-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, Yuba City, California, boasts one of the largest confirmed populations of Sikh and Punjabi Americans in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Dalip Singh Saund was the first Sikh American and Asian American member of the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind struggled and fought for Asian Indians to be allowed to become American citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany of Palo Alto is acknowledged by many to be the father of fiber optics; and

WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have served as mayors of California cities, including David Dhillon in El Centro, Gurpal Samra in Livingston, Amarpreet “Ruby” Dhaliwal in San Joaquin, and Kashmir Singh Gill in Yuba City, and numerous Sikh Americans have served as council members of California cities; and

WHEREAS, The Sikh and Punjabi American communities of California continue to make important contributions to our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Sikh Americans throughout California celebrate the coronation day of Sikh Scripture as Guru Gaddi Divas, along with parades in cities across California, the largest being held in Yuba City on the first Sunday of every November; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the month of November 2010 to be California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all Californians the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans, their monotheistic religion and the tenets of their faith, and the important role that Sikh Americans play in furthering mutual understanding and respect among all peoples; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution to the Members of the Legislature, members of the California Sikh American community, and other interested persons.