

**Introduced by Senators Correa, Alquist, Ducheny, Harman,  
Maldonado, and Walters**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Coto, DeVore, Duvall, Harkey, Jones,  
Miller, Silva, Solorio, and Tran)

March 25, 2009

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29—Relative to Black April  
Memorial Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 29, as introduced, Correa. Black April Memorial Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of April 23 to April 30, 2009, inclusive, as Black April Memorial Week, a special time for Californians to remember the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War era, and to hope for a more humane and just life for the people of Vietnam.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, April 30, 2009, marks the 34th anniversary of the  
2 fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, to communism; and

3 WHEREAS, For many Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who  
4 were directly involved in the war and Vietnamese Americans who  
5 have settled in the United States, the Vietnam War was a tragedy  
6 full of great suffering and the loss of American, Vietnamese, and  
7 Southeast Asian lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Fifty-eight thousand one hundred sixty-nine people  
9 were killed and 304,000 were wounded out of the 2.59 million  
10 people who served in the Vietnam War. One out of every 10  
11 Americans who served in Vietnam became a casualty of war; and

12 WHEREAS, After the fall of Saigon, over 135,000 Vietnamese  
13 fled to the United States, including former military and government

1 officials and Vietnamese who had worked for the United States  
2 during the war, and their families; and

3 WHEREAS, Thousands of people took boats in order to leave  
4 Vietnam in the late 1970s to mid-1980s. The successful ones  
5 reached refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the  
6 Philippines, and Hong Kong; while approximately one-half of the  
7 people fleeing Vietnam perished at sea; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census for 2000,  
9 447,032 Vietnamese live in California, with the largest  
10 concentration of Vietnamese found outside of Vietnam residing  
11 in Orange County; and

12 WHEREAS, We must teach our children and future generations  
13 important lessons from the Vietnam War, including how the plight  
14 of the Vietnamese refugees following the end of war serves as a  
15 powerful example of the values of freedom and democracy; and

16 WHEREAS, We, the people of California, should actively  
17 rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual  
18 freedom, and equal protection under the laws of a just and  
19 democratic world. Californians should set aside moments of time  
20 every year on April 30 to give remembrance to the soldiers, medical  
21 personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War era in  
22 pursuit of freedom; and

23 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout  
24 California will commemorate April 30, 2009, as Black April, a  
25 day of remembrance; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
27 *thereof concurring*, That in recognition of the great tragedy and  
28 suffering and lives lost during the Vietnam War era, the week of  
29 April 23, 2009, to April 30, 2009, inclusive, shall be proclaimed  
30 Black April Memorial Week, a special time for Californians to  
31 remember the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War era,  
32 and to hope for a more humane and just life for the people of  
33 Vietnam; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
35 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.