

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 41**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Olsen**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Harkey, Jeffries, and**  
**Portantino)**  
(Coauthor: Senator Runner)

June 19, 2012

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 41—Relative to Assyrian Martyrs  
Remembrance Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 41, as introduced, Olsen. Assyrian Martyrs Remembrance Day.

This measure would memorialize August 7, 2012, as Assyrian Martyrs  
Remembrance Day in California and would request the President and  
the Congress of the United States to commemorate Assyrian Martyrs  
Remembrance Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In victory for historical accuracy and inclusion,  
2 the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS), an  
3 organization of some of the world's foremost experts on genocide,  
4 overwhelmingly affirmed that, between 1914 and 1923, Assyrians  
5 suffered a genocide inflicted by the Ottoman Empire; and  
6 WHEREAS, The League of Nations, in a monthly summary  
7 entitled, "The Settlement of the Assyrians, A Work of Humanity  
8 and Appeasement," published by its information section in Geneva  
9 in 1935, declared, "The years of war have changed the face of the  
10 old world. Dynasties and empires have fallen; old freedoms have  
11 been reborn; revolutionary systems of government have arisen,

1 but it is probable that in proportion to its size, no community has  
2 undergone trials and upheavals to equal those of the little  
3 nation-church which bears the name of the Assyrians”; and

4 WHEREAS, This affirmation of an Assyrian genocide is long  
5 overdue, and long awaited by the survivors and their descendants,  
6 who have not until now had a voice to express their grief at the  
7 loss of family, home, community, and country; and

8 WHEREAS, Another massacre was committed against the  
9 Assyrians on August 11, 1933, in the village of Simel, in northern  
10 Iraq, where Assyrians were murdered in cold blood; and

11 WHEREAS, On August 7, 2012, the Holy Apostolic Catholic  
12 Assyrian Church of the East will join the Assyrian community and  
13 its many religious, communal, and philanthropic organizations as  
14 they honor the sacrifices and memories of their noble ancestors;  
15 now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
17 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
18 hereby designates August 7, 2012, as Assyrian Martyrs  
19 Remembrance Day in California; and be it further

20 *Resolved,* That the State of California respectfully memorializes  
21 the Congress of the United States to act likewise to commemorate  
22 the Assyrian Martyrs Remembrance Day; and be it further

23 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
24 of this Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
25 States, Members of the United States Congress, the Governor, and  
26 the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.