

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 19, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 5, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 25**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Wieckowski**

*(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Logue)*

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February 22, 2013

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 25—Relative to Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 25, as amended, Wieckowski. Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate November 2013 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It would recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh

heritage to the state and afford all Californians the opportunity to understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans.

Fiscal committee: no.

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

3 WHEREAS, In our extremely diverse Golden State, there reside  
4 an estimated 250,000 Sikh Americans, comprising about 40 percent  
5 of the nation’s Sikh population; and

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

11 WHEREAS, The first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in California  
12 was established in Stockton in 1912, and Sikh temples have since  
13 been established in communities throughout California, some like  
14 those in Fremont, San Jose, West Sacramento, and Yuba City being  
15 huge with accommodations for thousands; and

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

21 WHEREAS, Yuba City is referred to by many as “Mini-Punjab”  
22 with 10 percent of its population being Sikh or Punjabi; and

23 WHEREAS, Dalip Singh Saund, a Sikh, born in Punjab, India,  
24 earned a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in  
25 1924, initially earned his livelihood as a foreman of cotton pickers  
26 in the Imperial Valley, became a farmer, played a major role in  
27 raising the funds needed to lobby for the Luce-Celler Act of 1946  
28 that enabled him and others to naturalize as citizens, and served  
29 as an elected judge in the Westmoreland Judicial District from  
30 1952 to 1956, before becoming the first Asian American elected  
31 to the United States Congress, where he served three terms from  
32 1957 to 1963; and

33 WHEREAS, Bhagat Singh Thind, another Sikh born in Punjab,  
34 India, a United States Veteran of World War I, who campaigned  
35 actively for the independence of India from the British Rule,

1 supported Indian students and lectured on metaphysics throughout  
2 the United States, has been honored by the Fred Korematsu  
3 Institute as a “Race in the Courts Hero” for fighting his citizenship  
4 case in the United States Supreme Court in 1923; and

5 WHEREAS, Narinder Singh Kapany of Palo Alto, a Sikh born  
6 in Punjab, India, is an accomplished scientist and inventor, has  
7 been awarded over 100 patents that spurred advances in lasers,  
8 biomedical instrumentation, pollution monitoring, solar energy,  
9 and more, and is widely acknowledged to be the father of fiber  
10 optics, a technology that has allowed for high-speed digital  
11 communication; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, The Yuba City Sikh Parade, which commemorates  
21 the inauguration of the holy Sikh scripture, Siri Guru Granth Sahib,  
22 is held on the first Sunday of each November, rain or shine, and,  
23 in recent years, the international event has attracted between 60,000  
24 and 100,000 participants; and

25 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans throughout California celebrate  
26 the coronation of Sikh scripture and Sikh festivals at the Gurdwaras  
27 and with parades in cities across California and the United States;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, The Sikh Council of Central California, other Sikh  
30 organizations, and individual Gurdwaras participate in interfaith  
31 meetings, seminars, conferences, meetings, and functions and share  
32 the tenets of their monotheistic religion that respects other religions  
33 and welcome all to their Gurdwaras, and try to promote mutual  
34 understanding and respect among all peoples; now, therefore, be  
35 it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
37 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the  
38 month of November 2013 to be California’s Sikh American  
39 Awareness and Appreciation Month; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges  
2 the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage  
3 to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all  
4 Californians the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and  
5 appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans;  
6 and be it further

7     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
8 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution to the  
9 Members of the Legislature, members of the California Sikh  
10 American community, and other interested organizations or  
11 persons.

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