

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 35

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

March 18, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 35—Relative to California Native American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 35, as introduced, Alejo. California Native American Heritage Month.

This measure would recognize the month of September every year as California Native American Heritage Month, would encourage Californians to participate in appropriate observances that celebrate and commemorate California Native Americans, and would applaud and encourage the observance of California Indian Nations for their outstanding contributions to this state.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Native Americans were the first human inhabitants
- 2 of the land that is now the great State of California; and
- 3 WHEREAS, California Native Americans have contributed and
- 4 continue to contribute immeasurably to our state's history,
- 5 diversity, economy, and culture by distinguishing themselves as
- 6 academics, entrepreneurs, and leaders throughout our state; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Prior to the European colonization of the Americas,
- 8 the indigenous people of California thrived with a vibrant culture
- 9 and society; and

1 WHEREAS, California Native Americans have preserved their
2 rich heritage, which is among the world's great cultural treasures,
3 in the face of adversity; and

4 WHEREAS, California Native American heritage and culture
5 is richly interwoven with California's diverse social fabric; and

6 WHEREAS, Through their rich cultural traditions and proud
7 ancestry, California Native Americans have made vital
8 contributions to the strength and diversity of our society in such
9 areas as law, medicine, business, education, and the United States
10 Armed Forces; and

11 WHEREAS, In spite of a tragic past, Native Americans have
12 been generous citizens and proudly served in the United States
13 Armed Forces for over 200 years, defending the security of our
14 state and nation with their lives, including engaging in World War
15 II and Operation Iraqi Freedom, with honor, determination, and
16 distinction; and

17 WHEREAS, The work of Native American leaders has sought
18 to bridge racial, socioeconomic, and environmental barriers by
19 empowering and educating people in order to protect Native
20 American culture and heritage for future generations; and

21 WHEREAS, California Native Americans have faced numerous
22 barriers to business development, but have overcome those barriers
23 to persevere and contribute to Native American communities
24 throughout the state and country, and exemplify Native American
25 entrepreneurship in such areas as economic development, the food
26 service industry, health care, and banking finance; and

27 WHEREAS, California tribal governments today employ more
28 than 52,000 of our fellow citizens and contribute \$7.5 billion to
29 our shared economy; and

30 WHEREAS, California tribes have generously donated their
31 time and millions of dollars each year for education, youth
32 programs, health care services, and other essential social services
33 that strengthen California; and

34 WHEREAS, California today is home to the largest population
35 of Native Americans in the 50 states, including both the rebounding
36 numbers of our native tribes and others drawn to the Golden State
37 by its myriad attractions; and

38 WHEREAS, As we celebrate the contributions of Native
39 Americans to the great State of California, let us recognize the
40 success of tribal businesses and the rise of tribal members in all

walks of life as a testament to the resilience and enduring spirit of
our native peoples; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate
thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
September every year as California Native American Heritage
Month and encourages all Californians to participate in appropriate
observances with activities that celebrate and commemorate
California Native Americans as a symbol of hope and courage to
all citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That this recognition applauds and encourages the
observance of California Indian Nations for their outstanding
contributions to this great state; and be it further

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