

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 7, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 35**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo**

March 18, 2013

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 35, as amended, 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~~ *support*  
 28 more than ~~52,000~~ *60,000* of our fellow citizens and contribute \$7.5  
 29 billion to 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

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

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

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

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

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