

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 11, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 8

Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bloom, Blumenfeld, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dahle, Dickinson, Donnelly, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Holden, Hueso, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Mitchell, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Torres, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

January 23, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 8—Relative to Abraham Lincoln’s birthday.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 8, as amended, Chávez. Abraham Lincoln’s birthday.

This measure would declare that President Abraham Lincoln be honored on February 12, 2013, the anniversary of his birthday.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United
- 2 States, and one of our nation’s most respected and admired
- 3 Americans, rose from humble beginnings to become President of

1 the United States and courageously led his country during its
2 darkest time, the Civil War; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Lincoln brought a profound honesty and
4 integrity to the Office of the President, and will always be
5 remembered as “Honest Abe.” Most of all, he will forever be
6 associated with saving the Union and with the abolition of slavery;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809,
9 in Kentucky, and spent the first seven years of his life there; and

10 WHEREAS, In his entire life, President Lincoln was only able
11 to attend school for a total of one year. This lack of formal
12 education only made him hungrier for more knowledge, and he
13 mastered the Bible, the works of William Shakespeare, and the
14 law; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1846, he was elected to the United States
16 Congress as the only member of the Whig Party in the Illinois
17 congressional delegation, where he forthrightly articulated his
18 views against the Mexican War and his vehement opposition to
19 the extension of slavery, choosing not to run for reelection in 1848;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Soon after President Lincoln joined the Republican
22 Party, a new political party opposed to the extension of slavery,
23 in 1858 the Republicans nominated him for the United States
24 Senate. In his nomination acceptance speech, Lincoln stated: “A
25 house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government
26 cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect
27 the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall —
28 but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one
29 thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest
30 the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall
31 rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or
32 its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become lawful in all
33 the States, old as well as new — North as well as South.” He lost
34 in a close election to Stephen Douglas, the Democratic Party
35 candidate; and

36 WHEREAS, Just two years later, having won the Republican
37 party nomination for President of the United States, Mr. Lincoln
38 won election by a small margin, defeating, among other candidates,
39 Senator Steven Douglas; and

1 WHEREAS, Shortly after assuming office, the Civil War began.
2 As the war continued, Lincoln expanded the objectives of the war
3 beyond saving and restoring the Union, but also to freeing the
4 slaves and abolishing the institution of slavery; and

5 WHEREAS, On September 22, 1862, Lincoln took the first
6 major step toward the total abolition of slavery in the United States
7 by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, which took effect on
8 January 1, 1863; and

9 WHEREAS, President Lincoln enunciated the nation’s loftiest
10 ideals during its darkest moment following the bloodiest battle of
11 the Civil War. His Gettysburg Address, regarded as one of the
12 finest speeches in the English language, was delivered by him at
13 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863, while dedicating
14 a cemetery for those killed in the Battle of Gettysburg, which took
15 place from July 1 to July 3, 1863, between the Army of the
16 Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia; and

17 WHEREAS, In his Gettysburg Address, Lincoln reaffirmed the
18 nation’s foremost founding principles, declaring the United States
19 to be a nation “conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the
20 proposition that all men are created equal,” while assuring a nation
21 still consumed by war that “this nation, under God, shall have a
22 new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the
23 people for the people, shall not perish from the earth”; and

24 WHEREAS, To ensure that the provisions of the Emancipation
25 Proclamation could not be construed as a mere wartime measure,
26 President Lincoln insisted that enactment of a constitutional
27 amendment abolishing slavery be included in the 1864 Republican
28 Party platform; and

29 WHEREAS, Upon reelection to a second term as President in
30 1864, Abraham Lincoln actively supported the passage in Congress
31 of what became the 13th Amendment to the United States
32 Constitution, the copy of the joint resolution referring the 13th
33 Amendment to the states for ratification, which to this day is
34 housed in the National Archives, actually bears Abraham Lincoln’s
35 signature, even though the President has no formal constitutional
36 role in the amendment process, and joint resolutions do not go to
37 the White House for either signature or approval; and

38 WHEREAS, Lincoln ultimately reunified the nation and brought
39 about a successful conclusion to our nation’s bloodiest war, as the
40 Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, with the surrender of General

1 Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia to the Union General,
2 Ulysses S. Grant, at Appomattox Court House; and

3 WHEREAS, Only five days later, on April 14, 1865, Abraham
4 Lincoln was shot while viewing a performance of “My American
5 Cousin” at Ford’s Theater in Washington, D.C., and died the next
6 day, not living to see his dreams of the formal abolition of slavery
7 and the restoration of the Union realized; and

8 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln’s accomplishments and legacy
9 as the “Great Emancipator” and “Preserver of Our Union” are
10 perhaps unsurpassed in the history of our nation, and in this
11 sesquicentennial year of the enactment of the Emancipation
12 Proclamation, the third year of the Civil War, and the Gettysburg
13 Address, it is particularly appropriate to recognize Abraham
14 Lincoln, a portrait of whom hangs in a place of honor in the
15 California State Assembly Chambers; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
17 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that
18 President Abraham Lincoln be honored on February 12, 2013, the
19 anniversary of his birthday, not only in recognition of his numerous
20 accomplishments and contributions to our nation, but also as the
21 virtual symbol of the American dream, whereby an ordinary person
22 from the most humble beginnings can reach the pinnacle of
23 American society to be elected President, and to serve his country
24 with honor and courage; and be it further

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