

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 2, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 21

Introduced by Assembly Member ~~Linder~~ Members *Linder and Quirk-Silva*

June 25, 2013

House Resolution No. 21—Relative to the 4th of July.

1 WHEREAS, July 4, 2013, marks the 237th anniversary of the
2 signing of the Declaration of Independence, and by the adoption
3 of that document — formally entitled, “The unanimous Declaration
4 of the thirteen United States of America” — the nation we today
5 know as the United States of America officially came into being,
6 an occasion forever memorialized by *President* Abraham Lincoln
7 in the words of his Gettysburg Address as when “... our fathers
8 brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty,
9 and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal”;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, On June 7, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
12 at a location today known as Independence Hall, Virginia delegate
13 Richard Henry Lee brought the following resolution before the
14 Second Continental Congress of the United Colonies: “Resolved,
15 That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and
16 independent states, that they are absolved from all allegiance to
17 the British Crown, and that all political connection between them
18 and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved
19”; and

20 WHEREAS, On June 8, 1776, Lee’s resolution was referred to
21 a committee of the whole of the Continental Congress, at which

1 time they spent most of that day, as well as June 10, debating
2 independence; and

3 WHEREAS, On June 11, 1776, a “Committee of Five” — with
4 Thomas Jefferson of Virginia being picked unanimously as its first
5 member, and also including John Adams of Massachusetts,
6 Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert R. Livingston of New
7 York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut — was charged with
8 drafting a declaration of independence for consideration by the
9 Continental Congress; and

10 WHEREAS, The members of the “Committee of Five” assigned
11 Jefferson the task of producing a draft declaration, and on June
12 28, 1776, he produced a draft that, with minor changes by the
13 committee members, was forwarded to the Congress for its further
14 consideration; and

15 WHEREAS, On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress
16 adopted the Lee resolution upon the affirmative vote of 12 of the
17 13 colonial delegations, an occasion that delegate and future
18 President John Adams detailed to his wife Abigail in a letter written
19 July 3, 1776, as follows: “Yesterday the greatest Question was
20 decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater perhaps,
21 never was or will be decided among Men”; and

22 WHEREAS, On July 4, 1776, after further debate and changes
23 to the committee document, the Continental Congress adopted the
24 Declaration of Independence establishing the United States of
25 America, to which John Hancock that day affixed his signature,
26 with 55 other delegates representing the 13 colonies — now states
27 of the newly created nation — signing the declaration within the
28 next several weeks; and

29 WHEREAS, July 4 is a day unlike any other — in the history
30 of the United States of America, and indeed, the world — in that
31 not only is it the day that an infant nation formally defied the most
32 powerful empire on earth in a quest for freedom, liberty, and
33 independence, but even more importantly because on that day this
34 new nation declared as a “self-evident truth” — known and
35 knowable to all persons at all times in all places throughout the
36 world — the radical notion that “all men are created equal ...
37 endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that
38 among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”; and

39 WHEREAS, Since its adoption and bold pronouncement more
40 than two centuries ago, the Declaration of Independence and the

1 principles which animate that timeless document have inspired
2 literally billions of persons around the world to pursue freedom in
3 their own nation, for themselves and their own loved ones, and for
4 their fellow men and women, and remain today an imperfectly
5 unrealized goal to which all Americans and all who cherish liberty
6 must rededicate themselves, just as the drafters and signers of the
7 Declaration of Independence did by declaring: “with a firm reliance
8 on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge[d] to
9 each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor”; and

10 WHEREAS, On this and every July Fourth, it is both proper
11 and fitting that the institutions of California government, and
12 indeed all Californians, express heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness
13 to those men and women who have served in the Armed Forces
14 of the United States, and in particular to those who have suffered
15 the injuries of battle and who have made the ultimate sacrifice in
16 protecting freedom and liberty around the world, recalling the
17 words of President Abraham Lincoln that, as a result of their
18 profound sacrifice, “... this nation, under God, shall have a new
19 birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the
20 people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
23 Assembly of the State of California does — and intends to every
24 year immediately preceding the 4th of July — take this opportunity
25 to recognize and celebrate July 4, 2013, and the 237th anniversary
26 of the birth of our great nation and the signing of the Declaration
27 of Independence that this day represents; and be it further

28 *Resolved*, That the Assembly of the State of California calls
29 upon all the people of the great State of California, and the United
30 States of America, to take the opportunity of the 4th of July holiday
31 to obtain a greater knowledge and understanding of the facts and
32 circumstances that compelled the 13 original colonies to declare
33 their independence, and of the timeless principles of liberty,
34 equality, and self-determination that rest at the heart of the
35 Declaration of Independence; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Assembly of the State of California, on behalf
37 of a grateful citizenry, hereby expresses its heartfelt thanks,
38 appreciation, and prayers to all who have served — and who
39 currently serve — in the Armed Forces of the United States, in
40 recognition of the countless sacrifices and the indispensable role

1 these brave men and women have played even before the founding
2 of our nation on July 4, 1776, in preserving, protecting, and
3 defending the freedoms and liberties of all Americans, and
4 expanding freedom throughout the world; and be it further
5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall make
6 available suitable copies of this resolution for distribution by
7 Members of the Assembly of the State of California.

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