

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 19, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 167**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Achadjian and Nazarian  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brown, Ian Calderon, Gatto,  
Holden, Olsen, Patterson, ~~and Wilk~~ Wilk, Ammiano, Atkins,  
Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Buchanan, Campos,  
Chau, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly,  
Dickinson, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gonzalez,  
Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine,  
Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Mullin,  
Muratsuchi, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk,  
Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Stone,  
Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)**  
(Coauthor: Senator Cannella)

July 3, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 167—Relative to William Saroyan Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 167, as amended, Achadjian. William Saroyan Day.

This measure would recognize August 31, 2014, as William Saroyan Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On August 31, 1908, William Stonehill Saroyan
- 2 was born in Fresno, California and resided there for the majority
- 3 of his life before his death on May 18, 1981; and

1 WHEREAS, William Saroyan served in the United States Army  
2 during World War II and was stationed in Astoria, Queens, New  
3 York; and

4 WHEREAS, William Saroyan was the father of two children,  
5 Aram and Lucy; and

6 WHEREAS, William Saroyan has over 4,000 literary works to  
7 his credit, dating from the late 1920s to the early 1980s; and

8 WHEREAS, William Saroyan wrote *The Time of Your Life*, for  
9 which he was awarded the New York Drama Critics' Circle award  
10 in 1939 and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1940; and

11 WHEREAS, William Saroyan wrote *The Human Comedy*, which  
12 earned him an Academy Award for Best Original Motion Picture  
13 Story in 1943; and

14 WHEREAS, William Saroyan was inducted into the American  
15 Theater Hall of Fame in 1979; and

16 WHEREAS, Many of William Saroyan's stories are set in his  
17 native Fresno, drawing international attention to this region; and

18 WHEREAS, William Saroyan promoted the Armenian culture,  
19 drawing international attention to the Armenian culture at a time  
20 when his people were continually met with prejudice and  
21 oppression; and

22 WHEREAS, William Saroyan's works portrayed the immigrant  
23 experience in America and depicted human values such as freedom  
24 and universal benevolence and emphasized the "basic goodness"  
25 of all people; and

26 WHEREAS, William Saroyan is recognized as one of the most  
27 prominent literary figures of the mid-20th century; now, therefore,  
28 be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes August 31,  
31 2014, as the anniversary of the birth of William Stonehill Saroyan,  
32 and calls upon all Californians to participate in appropriate  
33 observances to remember William Stonehill Saroyan as one of the  
34 most prominent literary figures of the mid-20th century; and be it  
35 further

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

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