

House Resolution

No. 34

Introduced by Assembly Member Daly

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Arambula, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

January 13, 2016

House Resolution No. 34—Relative to Black April Memorial Week.

- 1 WHEREAS, April 30, 2016, marks the 41st anniversary of the
- 2 fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, to communism; and
- 3 WHEREAS, For many Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who
- 4 were directly involved in the war and Vietnamese Americans who
- 5 have settled in the United States, the Vietnam War was a tragedy
- 6 full of great suffering and the loss of American, Vietnamese, and
- 7 Southeast Asian lives; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Fifty-eight thousand one hundred sixty-nine people
- 9 were killed and 304,000 were wounded out of the 2.59 million

1 people who served in the Vietnam War. One out of every 10
2 Americans who served in Vietnam became a casualty of war; and

3 WHEREAS, After the fall of Saigon, over 135,000 Vietnamese
4 people and their families fled to the United States, including former
5 military personnel, government officials, and those who had
6 worked for the United States during the war; and

7 WHEREAS, Thousands of people took boats in order to leave
8 Vietnam in the late 1970s to mid-1980s. The successful emigrants
9 reached refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the
10 Philippines, and Hong Kong; while approximately one-half of the
11 people fleeing Vietnam perished at sea; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census for 2010,
13 more than 465,000 Vietnamese live in California, with the largest
14 concentration of Vietnamese found outside of Vietnam residing
15 in Orange County and Santa Clara County; and

16 WHEREAS, Human rights, religious freedom, democracy, and
17 protection against threats of aggression are important concerns of
18 Vietnamese Americans; and

19 WHEREAS, We must teach our children and future generations
20 important lessons from the Vietnam War, including how the plight
21 of the Vietnamese refugees following the end of war serves as a
22 powerful example of the values of freedom and democracy; and

23 WHEREAS, We, the people of California, should actively
24 rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual
25 freedom, sovereignty, and equal protection under the laws of a just
26 and democratic world. Californians should set aside moments of
27 time every year on April 30 to give remembrance to the soldiers,
28 medical personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War
29 in pursuit of freedom; and

30 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout
31 California will commemorate April 30, 2016, as Black April, a
32 day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom,
33 including freedom of expression, freedom of press, and Internet
34 freedom; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That in
36 recognition of the great tragedy and suffering and lives lost during
37 the Vietnam War, the week of April 23, 2016, to April 30, 2016,
38 inclusive, shall be proclaimed Black April Memorial Week, a
39 special time for Californians to remember the countless lives lost

- 1 during the Vietnam War era, and to hope for more justice and
- 2 liberty for the people of Vietnam; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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