

House Resolution

No. 4

Introduced by Assembly Member Campos

January 5, 2015

House Resolution No. 4—Relative to Black April Memorial Week.

1 WHEREAS, April 30, 2015, marks the 40th 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
10 people who served in the Vietnam War. One out of every 10
11 Americans who served in Vietnam became a casualty of war; and

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

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

21 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census for 2010,
22 more than 465,000 Vietnamese live in California, with the largest
23 concentration of Vietnamese found outside of Vietnam residing
24 in Orange County; and

1 WHEREAS, Human rights, religious freedom, democracy, and
2 protection against threats of aggression are important concerns of
3 Vietnamese Americans; and

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

8 WHEREAS, We, the people of California, should actively
9 rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual
10 freedom, sovereignty, and equal protection under the laws of a just
11 and democratic world. Californians should set aside moments of
12 time every year on April 30 to give remembrance to the soldiers,
13 medical personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War
14 in pursuit of freedom; and

15 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout
16 California will commemorate April 30, 2015, as Black April, a
17 day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom,
18 including freedom of expression, freedom of press, and Internet
19 freedom; now, therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That in
21 recognition of the great tragedy and suffering and lives lost during
22 the Vietnam War, the week of April 23, 2015, to April 30, 2015,
23 inclusive, shall be proclaimed Black April Memorial Week, a
24 special time for Californians to remember the countless lives lost
25 during the Vietnam War era, and to hope for more justice and
26 liberty for the people of Vietnam; and be it further

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