

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 18, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 4

Introduced by Assembly ~~Member~~ *Members Campos and Daly*

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~~ *Philippines*, and Hong Kong; while approximately
20 one-half of the 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

1 concentration of Vietnamese found outside of Vietnam residing
2 in Orange County; and

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

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

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

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

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

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