

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 2, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 9

Introduced by Assembly Member Irwin

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

February 24, 2015

House Resolution No. 9—Relative to the 4th of July.

1 WHEREAS, July 4, 2015, marks the 239th 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

1 WHEREAS, On June 7, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
2 at a location today known as Independence Hall, Virginia delegate
3 Richard Henry Lee brought the following resolution before the
4 Second Continental Congress of the United Colonies: “Resolved,
5 That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and
6 independent states, that they are absolved from all allegiance to
7 the British Crown, and that all political connection between them
8 and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved
9”; and

10 WHEREAS, On June 8, 1776, Lee’s resolution was referred to
11 a committee of the whole of the Continental Congress, at which
12 time they spent most of that day, as well as June 10, debating
13 independence; and

14 WHEREAS, On June 11, 1776, a “Committee of Five” — with
15 Thomas Jefferson of Virginia being picked unanimously as its first
16 member, and also including John Adams of Massachusetts,
17 Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert R. Livingston of New
18 York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut — was charged with
19 drafting a declaration of independence for consideration by the
20 Continental Congress; and

21 WHEREAS, The members of the “Committee of Five” assigned
22 Jefferson the task of producing a draft declaration, and on June
23 28, 1776, he produced a draft that, with minor changes by the
24 committee members, was forwarded to the Congress for its further
25 consideration; and

26 WHEREAS, On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress
27 adopted the Lee resolution upon the affirmative vote of 12 of the
28 13 colonial delegations, an occasion that delegate and future
29 President John Adams detailed to his wife Abigail in a letter written
30 July 3, 1776, as follows: “Yesterday the greatest Question was
31 decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater perhaps,
32 never was or will be decided among Men”; and

33 WHEREAS, On July 4, 1776, after further debate and changes
34 to the committee document, the Continental Congress adopted the
35 Declaration of Independence establishing the United States of
36 America, to which John Hancock that day affixed his signature,
37 with 55 other delegates representing the 13 colonies — now states
38 of the newly created nation — signing the declaration within the
39 next several weeks; and

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

11 WHEREAS, Since its adoption and bold pronouncement more
12 than two centuries ago, the Declaration of Independence and the
13 principles which animate that timeless document have inspired
14 literally billions of persons around the world to pursue freedom in
15 their own nation, for themselves and their own loved ones, and for
16 their fellow men and women, and remain today an imperfectly
17 unrealized goal to which all Americans and all who cherish liberty
18 must rededicate themselves, just as the drafters and signers of the
19 Declaration of Independence did by declaring: “with a firm reliance
20 on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge[d] to
21 each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor”; and

22 WHEREAS, On this and every July Fourth, it is both proper
23 and fitting that the institutions of California government, and
24 indeed all Californians, express heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness
25 to those men and women who have served in the Armed Forces
26 of the United States, and in particular to those who have suffered
27 the injuries of battle and who have made the ultimate sacrifice in
28 protecting freedom and liberty around the world, recalling the
29 words of President Abraham Lincoln that, as a result of their
30 profound sacrifice, “... this nation, under God, shall have a new
31 birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the
32 people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”; now,
33 therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
35 Assembly of the State of California does — and intends to every
36 year immediately preceding the 4th of July — take this opportunity
37 to recognize and celebrate July 4, 2015, and the 239th anniversary
38 of the birth of our great nation and the signing of the Declaration
39 of Independence that this day represents; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Assembly of the State of California calls
2 upon all the people of the great State of California, and the United
3 States of America, to take the opportunity of the 4th of July holiday
4 to obtain a greater knowledge and understanding of the facts and
5 circumstances that compelled the 13 original colonies to declare
6 their independence, and of the timeless principles of liberty,
7 equality, and self-determination that rest at the heart of the
8 Declaration of Independence; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Assembly of the State of California, on behalf
10 of a grateful citizenry, hereby expresses its heartfelt thanks,
11 appreciation, and prayers to all who have served — and who
12 currently serve — in the Armed Forces of the United States, in
13 recognition of the countless sacrifices and the indispensable role
14 these brave men and women have played even before the founding
15 of our nation on July 4, 1776, in preserving, protecting, and
16 defending the freedoms and liberties of all Americans, and
17 expanding freedom throughout the world; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall make
19 available suitable copies of this resolution for distribution by
20 Members of the Assembly of the State of California.