
Introduced by Senator Nguyen

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March 10, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29—Relative to Black April
Memorial Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 29, as introduced, Nguyen. Black April Memorial Month.

This act would proclaim the month of April 2015 as Black April
Memorial Month, in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the fall of
Saigon.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, April 30, 2015, marks the 40th year since the Fall
2 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, The combined United States and South Vietnamese
9 fatalities among servicemen and women during the Vietnam War
10 reached more than half a million, with approximately 800,000
11 additional troops being wounded in combat. Millions of
12 Vietnamese civilians suffered casualties and death as a result of
13 the extended conflict; and

1 WHEREAS, After the fall of Saigon, millions of Vietnamese
2 and their families fled Vietnam to surrounding areas and the United
3 States, including, but not limited to, former military personnel,
4 government officials, and those who had worked for the United
5 States during the war; and

6 WHEREAS, In the late 1970s to mid-1980s thousands of
7 Vietnamese risked their lives by fleeing Vietnam aboard small
8 wooden boats. These emigrants reached refugee camps in Thailand,
9 Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong; while
10 approximately one-half of the people fleeing Vietnam in search
11 of freedom and democracy perished at sea; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census for 2010,
13 more than 580,000 Vietnamese live in California, with the largest
14 concentration of Vietnamese residents found outside of Vietnam
15 residing in the County of Orange; and

16 WHEREAS, Human rights, religious freedom, democracy, and
17 protection against threats of aggression are important concerns of
18 Vietnamese Americans and the Vietnamese communities
19 worldwide stemming from the human rights abuses that continue
20 to occur in Vietnam in the following areas, but are not limited to,
21 child labor, human trafficking, religious and political persecution,
22 suppression of the press, unlawful deprivation of life, forced
23 disappearances, and land restitution; and

24 WHEREAS, The 2013 United States Department of State Report
25 on Human Rights Practices in Vietnam estimates more than 120
26 political detainees are being held, and diplomatic sources report
27 there are approximately 4,000 prisoners incarcerated in four
28 reeducation centers; and

29 WHEREAS, We must teach our children and future generations
30 important lessons from the Vietnam War and the continuing
31 situation in Vietnam, including how the plight of the Vietnamese
32 refugees following the end of war serves as a powerful example
33 of the values of freedom and democracy; and

34 WHEREAS, We, the people of California, should actively
35 rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual
36 freedom, sovereignty, and equal protection under the laws of a just
37 and democratic world. Californians should set aside moments of
38 time every year on April 30 to give remembrance to the soldiers,
39 medical personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War
40 in pursuit of freedom and democracy; and

1 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout
2 California will commemorate April 30, 2015, as Black April, a
3 day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom,
4 including freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of
5 press, and Internet freedom; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
7 *thereof concurring*, That in recognition of the great tragedy and
8 suffering and lives lost during the Vietnam War, the month of
9 April 2015 shall be proclaimed Black April Memorial Month, a
10 special time for Californians to remember the lives lost during the
11 Vietnam War era, and to hope for a more humane and just life for
12 the people of Vietnam; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
14 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.