

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 19, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 29

Introduced by Senator Nguyen

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Travis Allen)

**(Coauthors: Senators Bates, *Beall*, *Hall*, *Huff*, *Morrell*, *Nielsen*, and
~~Vidak~~ *Vidak*, and *Wieckowski*)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Chávez*, Chu, Harper, Kim, Lackey,
McCarty, *Wagner*, and Wilk)

March 10, 2015

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 29, as amended, 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~~ *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

1 additional troops being wounded in combat. Millions of
2 Vietnamese civilians suffered casualties and death as a result of
3 the extended conflict; and

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, The 2013 United States Department of ~~State~~ *State's*
28 Report on Human Rights Practices in Vietnam estimates more than
29 120 political detainees are being held, and diplomatic sources
30 report there are approximately 4,000 prisoners incarcerated in four
31 reeducation centers; and

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

37 WHEREAS, We, the people of California, should actively
38 rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual
39 freedom, sovereignty, and equal protection under the laws of a just
40 and democratic world. Californians should set aside moments of

1 time every year on April 30 to give remembrance to the soldiers,
2 medical personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War
3 in pursuit of freedom and democracy; and

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

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

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