

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 39**

**Introduced by Senators Block, Allen, Hertzberg, Jackson, Leno,  
Stone, and Wolk**

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

April 9, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39—Relative to Jewish American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 39, as amended, Block. Jewish American Heritage Month.

This measure would state that the Legislature recognizes May 2015 as Jewish American Heritage Month, encourages all Californians to participate in appropriate observances with activities that celebrate and commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month, and commends Jewish Americans for their notable accomplishments and outstanding service to the state and the nation.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, For thousands of years, the Jewish people have  
2 sustained their identity and traditions while persevering in the face  
3 of persecution, enslavement, years of wandering, forced  
4 segregation, and the horrors of the Holocaust; and

5 WHEREAS, Ever since the first Dutch Jew set foot in New  
6 Amsterdam in 1654, Jews have been contributing bountifully to  
7 the culture and history of the United States of America, have  
8 achieved great success, strengthened the country, and helped shape  
9 the American way of life through their deep commitment to faith,  
10 family, and community; and

11 WHEREAS, When the first Jewish settlers came to this country,  
12 they sought a place of promise where they could practice their  
13 faith in freedom and live in liberty; and

14 WHEREAS, In his second year in office, President George  
15 Washington wrote a letter to the Touro Synagogue in Newport,  
16 Rhode Island, which was one of first Jewish houses of worship in  
17 the United States of America, reaffirming the nation's commitment  
18 to religious freedom where he noted that the government of the  
19 United States would give "to bigotry no sanction [and] to  
20 persecution no assistance," and that all Americans are entitled to  
21 "liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship"; and

22 WHEREAS, It was such a belief that drew generations of Jewish  
23 immigrants to the United States of America to rebuild their lives,  
24 whether it was Jewish families fleeing pogroms or persecution in  
25 Europe during the last century, Holocaust survivors, or Jews  
26 trapped behind the Iron Curtain; and

27 WHEREAS, This history led many Jewish Americans to find  
28 common cause with the Civil Rights Movement, as African  
29 Americans and Jewish Americans marched side by side in Selma  
30 and Montgomery, boarded buses for Freedom Rides together, and  
31 united in their support of liberty and human dignity; and

32 WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have continued their strong  
33 support for ending discrimination in voting, employment, public  
34 accommodation, and in society at large, by prominently  
35 participating in virtually every civil rights effort in the American  
36 experience, including those for women, farmworkers, the disabled,  
37 and for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans; and

38 WHEREAS, As a nation of immigrants, the United States is  
39 better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world  
40 have chosen to become American citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month is the time when  
2 the rich history of Jewish Americans is celebrated and their  
3 contributions to this nation are honored; and

4 WHEREAS, Anyone interested in learning more about the  
5 heritage and contributions of Jewish Americans should visit  
6 [www.JewishHeritageMonth.gov](http://www.JewishHeritageMonth.gov); and

7 WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month is also an  
8 opportunity to remember and thank the many Jewish Americans  
9 who defend this nation's ideals as members of the United States  
10 Armed Forces; and

11 WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month is also a time to  
12 renew this nation's unbreakable bond with the nation of Israel.  
13 This bond is a partnership built on mutual interests and shared  
14 ideals that transcend politics. Israel and the United States of  
15 America are enriched by diversity and faith, fueled by innovation,  
16 and ruled not only by men and women, but also by laws; and

17 WHEREAS, Jewish Americans continue to guide the nation's  
18 progress as scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs, public servants,  
19 private citizens, leaders, and parents; and

20 WHEREAS, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
21 sponsored House Concurrent Resolution 315 (H. Con. Res. 315  
22 (109th)) that urges the President of the United States to issue each  
23 year a proclamation calling on state and local governments and  
24 the people of the United States to observe American Jewish History  
25 Month; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes May 2015 as  
28 Jewish American Heritage Month, encourages all Californians to  
29 participate in appropriate observances with activities that celebrate  
30 and commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month, and  
31 commends Jewish Americans for their notable accomplishments  
32 and outstanding service to the state and the nation; and be it further

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