

**Introduced by Senators Morrell, Allen, Anderson, Bates, Berryhill,
Cannella, Fuller, Gaines, Hall, Huff, Moorlach, Nguyen, Nielsen,
Runner, Stone, Vidak, and Wieckowski**

June 15, 2015

Senate Resolution No. 36—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 the time “... our fathers
8 brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty,
9 and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal”;
10 and
11 WHEREAS, On June 7, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
12 at a location today known as Independence Hall, Virginia delegate
13 Richard Henry Lee brought the following resolution before the
14 Second Continental Congress of the United Colonies: “Resolved,
15 That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and
16 independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to
17 the British Crown, and that all political connection between them
18 and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved”;
19 and
20 WHEREAS, On June 8, 1776, Lee’s resolution was referred to
21 a committee of the whole of the Continental Congress, at which
22 time they spent most of that day, as well as June 10, debating
23 independence; and

1 WHEREAS, On June 11, 1776, a “Committee of Five” — with
2 Thomas Jefferson of Virginia being picked unanimously as its first
3 member, and also including John Adams of Massachusetts,
4 Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert R. Livingston of New
5 York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut — was charged with
6 drafting a declaration of independence for consideration by the
7 Continental Congress; and

8 WHEREAS, The members of the “Committee of Five” assigned
9 Jefferson the task of producing a draft declaration, and on June
10 28, 1776, he produced a draft that, with minor changes by the
11 committee members, was forwarded to the Continental Congress
12 for its further consideration; and

13 WHEREAS, On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress
14 adopted the Lee resolution upon the affirmative vote of 12 of the
15 13 colonial delegations, an occasion that delegate and future
16 President John Adams detailed to his wife Abigail in a letter written
17 July 3, 1776, as follows: “Yesterday the greatest Question was
18 decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater,
19 perhaps, never was or will be decided among Men”; and

20 WHEREAS, On July 4, 1776, after further debate and changes
21 to the committee document, the Continental Congress adopted the
22 Declaration of Independence establishing the United States of
23 America, to which John Hancock that day affixed his signature,
24 with 55 other delegates representing the 13 colonies — now states
25 of the newly created nation — signing the declaration within the
26 next several weeks; and

27 WHEREAS, The 4th of July is a day unlike any other — in the
28 history of the United States of America, and indeed, the world —
29 in that not only is it the day that an infant nation formally defied
30 the most powerful empire on earth in a quest for freedom, liberty,
31 and independence, but even more importantly because on that day
32 this new nation declared as a “self-evident truth” — known and
33 knowable to all persons at all times in all places throughout the
34 world — the radical notion that “all men are created equal ...
35 endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that
36 among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”; and

37 WHEREAS, Since its adoption and bold pronouncement more
38 than two centuries ago, the Declaration of Independence and the
39 principles that animate that timeless document have inspired
40 billions of persons around the world to pursue freedom in their

1 own nations, for themselves and their own loved ones, and for
2 their fellow men and women, and remain today an imperfectly
3 realized goal to which all Americans and all who cherish liberty
4 must rededicate themselves, just as the drafters and signers of the
5 Declaration of Independence did by declaring: “with a firm reliance
6 on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each
7 other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor”; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States and California have a long and
9 generous tradition of welcoming people from all nations to our
10 shores. This tradition continues today as we invite all who yearn
11 to be free, with a respect for the rule of law, to join us and in the
12 spirit of good will mutually pledge ourselves to the principles laid
13 out in the Declaration of Independence; and

14 WHEREAS, Preserving civil liberty is one of the most important
15 blessings and a most valuable inheritance on this side of heaven.
16 Therefore, a basic knowledge of America’s political principles
17 contained in our United States Constitution and Declaration of
18 Independence is necessary for the promotion of prosperity, virtue,
19 and public happiness. In the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, this system
20 of good laws and statutes that limits government’s powers and
21 ranks the citizen above the state for the mutual benefit of both, is
22 the foundation and the cord that link the hearts of patriotic and
23 liberty-loving people together; and

24 WHEREAS, On this and every 4th of July, it is both proper and
25 fitting that the institutions of California government, and indeed
26 all Californians, express heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness to
27 those men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of
28 the United States, and in particular to those who have suffered the
29 injuries of battle and who have made the ultimate sacrifice in
30 protecting freedom and liberty around the world, recalling the
31 words of President Abraham Lincoln that, as a result of their
32 profound sacrifice, “... this nation, under God, shall have a new
33 birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the
34 people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”; now,
35 therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
37 of the State of California does — and intends to every year
38 immediately preceding the 4th of July — take this opportunity to
39 recognize and celebrate July 4, 2015, and the 239th anniversary

1 of the birth of our great nation and the signing of the Declaration
2 of Independence that this day represents; and be it further

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

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

20 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 this resolution to the Governor of the State of California, and to
22 the author for appropriate distribution.