
Introduced by Senator Pan

May 5, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 57—Relative to Hmong History Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 57, as introduced, Pan. Hmong History Month.

This measure would recognize the amount of September 2015 as Hmong History Month, urge all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of the Hmong people during Hmong History Month, and encourage the people of California to recognize the many talents, achievements, and contributions that the Hmong people bring to their communities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The history of the Hmong people here in the United
2 States, as well as throughout the ages, is indeed unique and vibrant,
3 and it is appropriate to celebrate this history during the month of
4 September 2015, which has been recognized as Hmong History
5 Month; and
6 WHEREAS, The Lao-Hmong, or free people, are greatly
7 respected and admired for their dedicated service and valiant
8 support of the United States Armed Forces and its allies during
9 the Vietnam war; and
10 WHEREAS, Many Lao-Hmong served in the "Secret Army,"
11 which was funded by the CIA and included Special Guerilla units
12 and other Special Forces, to thwart the Pathet Lao and North
13 Vietnamese Army in Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand from 1960 to
14 1975; and

1 WHEREAS, The members of this Laotian hill tribe are known
2 for their warrior traditions, loyalty, and bravery, as evidenced by
3 their contributions to guarding United States personnel and Air
4 Force radar installations, gathering critical intelligence on enemy
5 movement and operations, performing rescue missions to save
6 downed United States pilots, and fighting in conventional and
7 guerilla combat against overwhelming forces, including several
8 North Vietnamese divisions, to disrupt the flow of troops and
9 supplies along the Ho Chi Minh Trail; and

10 WHEREAS, A conservative estimate of over 35,000 brave
11 Lao-Hmong men, women, and children lost their lives; more than
12 50,000 were wounded; and more than 2,500 are missing in action;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, These numbers do not include the devastating loss
15 of 30,000 lives when the Lao-Hmong fell victim to retributive
16 ethnic cleansing starting in 1975 and continuing to this day, nor
17 the thousands forced into reeducation camps or who perished
18 attempting to cross the Mekong River into Thailand; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to the devastation to their homes and
20 way of life, thousands of Lao-Hmong soldiers and their families
21 became a countryless people when they commenced their perilous
22 flight to seek safe refuge in other countries, such as Argentina,
23 Canada, China, France, Japan, New Zealand, and the United
24 States—a mass exodus that continues to this day; and

25 WHEREAS, The Lao-Hmong's heroic and significant
26 contributions to the United States during their fighting efforts in
27 Laos and the positive influence they have since had upon the
28 American way of life will not be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature takes great pleasure in
31 recognizing the amount of September 2015 as Hmong History
32 Month, extends deep appreciation to the Hmong men, women, and
33 children who served the United States with loyalty and bravery,
34 urges all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of the
35 Hmong people during Hmong History Month, and encourages the
36 people of California to recognize the many talents, achievements,
37 and contributions that the Hmong people bring to our communities;
38 and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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