
Introduced by Senator Pan

May 12, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 61—Relative to Slavic Heritage Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 61, as introduced, Pan. Slavic Heritage Day.

This measure would recognize May 24, 2015, as Slavic Heritage Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, For thousands of years, the Slavic people have
2 sustained a cultural diversity that showcases the rich traditions of
3 the Slavic ethnicities that are represented within the modern-day
4 European nations of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Bosnia and
5 Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Macedonia,
6 Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia; and
7 WHEREAS, Since the first Slavic settlers and traders set foot
8 in what is now Alaska and settled on the Aleutian island of Kodiak
9 in 1784, the Slavic people have been contributing bountifully to
10 the culture and history of the United States, have achieved great
11 success, strengthened the country, and helped shape the American
12 way of life through their deep commitment to faith, family, and
13 community; and
14 WHEREAS, When the first Slavic settlers came to this country,
15 they sought a place of promise where they could live in peace,
16 enjoy liberty, and economically prosper; and
17 WHEREAS, During the 19th century a number of Slavic
18 immigrants entered the United States as indentured servants who
19 were bonded to their masters and worked in mines, mills, or

1 sweatshops or as servants to end their indenture and earn their
2 freedom; and

3 WHEREAS, Whether Slavic immigrants were fleeing oppression
4 or persecution, or simply pursuing better lives for themselves and
5 their families, the desire to live in peace and eventually enjoy
6 liberty was so dearly valued that it drew generations of Slavic
7 immigrants to the United States in an effort to rebuild their lives;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, With longstanding roots in California that date
10 back more than 200 years with the establishment of colonies
11 including Fort Ross in 1812 by Russian settlers, the Slavic
12 community has forged its influence on the state through providing
13 support to settlers, crafts, technologies, and commercial enterprise;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Slavic American community has brought
16 invaluable cultural contributions to California by introducing its
17 rich culture, literature, and alphabet, which traces its origins to
18 ninth century Bulgaria, and these contributions have enhanced the
19 diversity and progress, as well as the cultural heritage, that the
20 state has and will continue to enjoy; and

21 WHEREAS, Slavic figure skaters, ballet dancers, symphony
22 orchestra conductors, composers and musicians, dancing bears,
23 literature, dramatic theatrical performances, and American
24 thespians such as Marilyn Monroe, Clint Eastwood, and Jack
25 Nicholson who were influenced by the methods of renowned Slavic
26 coaches which permeated Hollywood films and on the Broadway
27 stage are ubiquitous in contemporary American life; and

28 WHEREAS, Renowned Hollywood film creators, including
29 Alfred Hitchcock and Francis Ford Coppola, have cited their
30 inspiration for film editing and montage sequences from Slavic
31 film directors, and those influences continue to this day in modern
32 filmmaking, animation, and documentary films; and

33 WHEREAS, The inescapable influences of Slavic culture upon
34 California's performing arts, entertainment, and sports have
35 reshaped the state's culture through classical dance, the San
36 Francisco Ballet Company, and musical compositions through
37 Hollywood sound studios; and

38 WHEREAS, Slavic Heritage Day is the time when the rich
39 history of Slavic Americans is celebrated and their contributions
40 to this nation are honored; and

1 WHEREAS, Slavic Americans have continued their strong
2 support for liberty and ending discrimination in voting,
3 employment, public accommodation, and in society at large, by
4 prominently participating in virtually every civil rights effort in
5 the American experience, including those for women, farmworkers,
6 and the disabled; and

7 WHEREAS, As a nation of immigrants, the United States is
8 better and stronger because Slavic people from all over the world
9 have chosen to become American citizens; and

10 WHEREAS, To collectively advance the participation of Slavic
11 American businesses and ventures, the Slavic American Chamber
12 of Commerce was established with the mission to provide services
13 for, and facilitate the growth and success of, businesses that serve
14 the Slavic American community throughout California; and

15 WHEREAS, Slavic Americans continue to guide the nation's
16 progress as scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs, public servants,
17 private citizens, leaders, and parents; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes May 24, 2015,
20 as Slavic Heritage Day, encourages all Californians to participate
21 in appropriate observances with activities that celebrate and
22 commemorate Slavic Heritage Day, and commends Slavic
23 Americans for their notable accomplishments and outstanding
24 service to the state and the nation; and be it further

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