

**Introduced by Senator Nguyen**

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Travis Allen)

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Vidak)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Baker, Brough, Chang, Chávez, Harper,  
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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 104—Relative to Black April  
Memorial Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 104, as introduced, Nguyen. Black April Memorial Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April 2016 as Black April  
Memorial Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, April 30, 2016, marks the 41st 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 a half million, with approximately 800,000
- 11 additional troops being wounded in combat. Millions of
- 12 Vietnamese civilians suffered casualties and death as a result of
- 13 the extended conflict; and

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Human rights, religious freedom, democracy, and  
17 protection against threats of aggression are important concerns of  
18 Vietnamese-Americans and the Vietnamese communities  
19 worldwide stemming from the human rights abuses that continue  
20 to occur in Vietnam in the following areas, among others, child  
21 labor, human trafficking, religious and political persecution,  
22 suppression of the press, unlawful deprivation of life, forced  
23 disappearances, and land seizure; and

24 WHEREAS, The 2014 United States Department of State's  
25 Report on Human Rights Practices in Vietnam estimates 125  
26 political detainees are being held, and the International Labor  
27 Rights Forum reports that mistreatment has continued at  
28 reeducation centers, including forcing detainees to produce goods  
29 for private companies; and

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

35 WHEREAS, We, the people of California, should actively  
36 rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual  
37 freedom, sovereignty, and equal protection under the laws of a just  
38 and democratic world. Californians should set aside moments of  
39 time every year on April 30 to give remembrance to the soldiers,

1 medical personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War  
2 in pursuit of freedom and democracy; and

3 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout  
4 California will commemorate April 30, 2016, as Black April, a  
5 day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom,  
6 including freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of  
7 press, and Internet freedom; now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
9 *thereof concurring,* That in recognition of the great tragedy and  
10 suffering and lives lost during the Vietnam War, the month of  
11 April 2016 shall be proclaimed Black April Memorial Month, a  
12 special time for Californians to remember the lives lost during the  
13 Vietnam War era, and to hope for a more humane and just life for  
14 the people of Vietnam; and be it further

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

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