

Introduced by Senator Nguyen

August 16, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 165—Relative to the Republic of Vietnam Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 165, as introduced, Nguyen. Republic of Vietnam Month.

This measure proclaims the month of October 2016 as the Republic of Vietnam Month, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the first Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam, in honor of the lives lost for freedom and democracy during the Vietnam War, and in recognition of the positive contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the State of California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The people of the Republic of Vietnam (South
2 Vietnam) and the United States found common ground in their
3 shared principles of democracy and individual liberties, coming
4 together to valiantly defend these tenets against communism; and
5 WHEREAS, October 2016 marks the 60th anniversary of the
6 adoption of the first Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam,
7 which established that nation’s first democracy; and
8 WHEREAS, Until the Fall of Saigon in 1975, the government
9 of the Republic of Vietnam sought to defend the lives, freedom,
10 and property of its people and was at the forefront of the fight for
11 democracy in Southeast Asia; and
12 WHEREAS, In an effort to protect the democratic government
13 of the Republic of Vietnam from socialist control, the United
14 States, Australia, the Philippines, New Zealand, South Korea,

1 Taiwan, and Thailand fought vigorously to aid the Republic of
2 Vietnam in their fight against communism; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite a valiant effort from countries around the
4 world, Saigon fell, compelling nearly three million Vietnamese to
5 flee the country in search of freedom and refuge in neighboring
6 countries with approximately half of these individuals perishing
7 at sea before reaching a safe haven; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States welcomed many Vietnamese
9 refugees following the collapse of the Republic of Vietnam, and
10 today, the State of California is home to more than 500,000
11 Vietnamese Americans that enrich the social, cultural, and
12 economic fabric of our state through their significant contributions
13 to the fields of education, business, politics, arts, science, and
14 technology; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, the Vietnamese American community
16 throughout California and the United States remains vigilant of
17 the state of affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam due to their
18 continuous infringement upon the liberties of its people,
19 specifically in the areas of child labor, human trafficking, religious
20 and political persecution, suppression of the press, unlawful
21 deprivation of life, forced disappearances, and land seizures; and

22 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout
23 California and the United States continue to put pressure on the
24 government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the hope
25 of bringing freedom and democracy to the people of Vietnam,
26 improving the quality of life of the veterans and disabled veterans
27 of the Army of Republic of Vietnam and drawing attention to the
28 plight of the wives of the fallen soldiers who continue to suffer;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, For their brave resolution to defend freedom around
31 the world, Republic of Vietnam Month seeks to recognize the
32 sacrifice of the more than 58,000 American service members who
33 lost their lives to defend democracy in Vietnam, as well as the
34 more than one million people, including service members,
35 supporting personnel, and their families, who made great sacrifices
36 and contributions to the fight for freedom; and

37 WHEREAS, Republic of Vietnam Month also honors the
38 members of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and government
39 officials, many of whom perished or were captured and held in
40 communist labor camps where they suffered unspeakable abuses,

1 as well as to recognize the sacrifice of their families, especially
2 the wives who displayed admirable courage in the face of tragedy;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, To honor the great sacrifices made in the fight for
5 democracy, communities throughout California will dedicate the
6 month of October as a time to reflect on principles of freedom and
7 democracy and the sacrifices that have been made towards the
8 attainment of these ideals, as well as to commemorate the
9 anniversary of the first democracy of the Republic of Vietnam and
10 to thank the millions of veterans around the world who fought
11 during the Vietnam War; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
13 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
14 month of October 2016 as the Republic of Vietnam Month, in
15 commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the first
16 Constitution of the Republic of Vietnam, in honor of the lives lost
17 for freedom and democracy during the Vietnam War, and in
18 recognition of the positive contributions of Vietnamese Americans
19 to the State of California; and be it further

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