

Introduced by Senator Schiff

August 28, 1998

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 106—Relative to the Honorable Frank K. Richardson.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 106, as introduced, Schiff. The Honorable Frank K. Richardson.

This measure would commemorate the public service of former Justice Frank K. Richardson.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Frank K. Richardson,
2 Retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of
3 California, has brought credit and distinction to himself
4 through his illustrious record of public service, and it is
5 appropriate at this time to commemorate the valuable
6 leadership and dedicated service he has provided to his
7 community and the people of the State of California; and
8 WHEREAS, Justice Frank Richardson was born in St.
9 Helena, Napa County, California, and lived in various
10 locations in Northern California, one of which was
11 Sacramento, where he attended Marshall School; and
12 WHEREAS, After he completed his freshman year in
13 high school in San Jose, the Richardson family moved to
14 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Frank attended
15 Germantown High School; and
16 WHEREAS, Frank attended the University of
17 Pennsylvania for his freshman year of college but then

1 transferred to Stanford University, where he graduated
2 with a Bachelor of Arts degree “With Distinction” in
3 political science in 1935 and was elected to the Phi Beta
4 Kappa Honors Society, and graduated from Stanford Law
5 School with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1938; and

6 WHEREAS, Frank became a member of the California
7 State Bar in 1938, upon passing the bar exam, and began
8 practicing law in Oroville in the law offices of retired
9 Judge Hiram Walker and, while practicing law, Frank
10 immersed himself in the civic life of Oroville by serving
11 as President of the Oroville Rotary Club, as a member of
12 the Methodist Church, and as a Republican candidate for
13 the state Assembly; and

14 WHEREAS, While residing in Oroville, Frank met
15 Betty Kingdon, whom he later married in 1943, and this
16 year they celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on
17 January 23, 1998, and the Richardsons’ household has
18 grown to include four sons and five grandchildren; and

19 WHEREAS, During World War II, Frank served as a
20 First Lieutenant in the United States Army
21 (Intelligence), participated in the European Theatre of
22 Operations, and received two Battle Stars for his valor;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, After the war, Frank and Betty Richardson
25 decided to move to Sacramento, a place they both love
26 and which has been their home for the last forty-three
27 years; and

28 WHEREAS, From 1946 to 1971, Frank practiced law,
29 first as an associate to Sumner Mering, then by himself as
30 a sole practitioner for twenty-three years, and also, during
31 this time, taught law classes at night in Evidence and
32 Torts at McGeorge School of Law; and

33 WHEREAS, In 1971, then-Governor Ronald Reagan
34 appointed Frank Richardson as Presiding Justice of the
35 Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento; in 1974,
36 Governor Reagan elevated Justice Richardson to the
37 California Supreme Court, where he served for nine
38 years as an Associate Justice, and, in December 1993,
39 Justice Richardson retired from the California Supreme
40 Court; and



1 WHEREAS, Six months after his retirement from the
2 California Supreme Court, and after a semester of
3 teaching at Pepperdine University School of Law as its
4 Distinguished Visiting Scholar, President Ronald Reagan
5 appointed Justice Richardson as Solicitor to the United
6 States Department of the Interior and, in that capacity,
7 Frank supervised the work of the legal staff of the
8 Department of the Interior throughout the United States
9 until his retirement from that position in July 1985; and

10 WHEREAS, In recognition of his skills as a lawyer and
11 judge, and for his service to his community, state, and to
12 the legal profession, Justice Frank Richardson has
13 received honorary doctorates in law from Pepperdine
14 University School of Law, Mid-Valley College of Law in
15 Los Angeles, Western State University School of Law in
16 San Diego, and the University of Southern California
17 School of Law, which also made him an Honorary
18 Member of its Order of the Coif Society; and

19 WHEREAS, Justice Richardson served as a member of
20 the Board of Visitors of Stanford Law School, McGeorge
21 School of Law, Pepperdine University School of Law,
22 Brigham Young University School of Law, and Whittier
23 College of Law, and he was a member of the Board of
24 Regents of the University of the Pacific and the Editorial
25 Board for the University of San Francisco Law Review;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, In the years following his retirement from
28 the California Supreme Court, Justice Richardson has
29 served as Chairman of the Select Committee on Internal
30 Procedures of the Supreme Court of California, as a
31 member of both the Advisory Board of the National
32 Institute of Justice and the California Commission on
33 Campaign Financing, and as a member of the Board of
34 Directors of FEDCO and the Board of Governors of the
35 President Ronald Reagan Foundation; and

36 WHEREAS, In 1993, Justice Richardson was elected a
37 Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an honorary
38 organization of attorneys, judges, and law teachers whose
39 professional, public, and private careers have
40 demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of



1 their communities and to the highest principles of the
2 legal profession; and

3 WHEREAS, Frank was active in numerous state and
4 local bar activities, including his leadership as President
5 of the Sacramento County Bar Association, as a member
6 of the Executive Committee of the State Bar, the
7 Conference of Delegates, the Committee for the
8 Administration of Justice, and the Committee of Bar
9 Examiners, as Counsel to the California Commission on
10 Uniform State Laws, and as a Fellow of the American
11 College of Probate Counsel; and

12 WHEREAS, His attention extended beyond his
13 professional interests to the local community, where he
14 distinguished himself as President of the Sacramento
15 World Affairs Council, the Sacramento Community
16 Welfare Council, the Sacramento YMCA, and the
17 Sacramento Lions Club, as an active community member
18 in the United Crusade and KVIE-Channel 6,
19 Sacramento's public television station, and as the founder
20 and first President and member of the Board of Directors
21 of the Methodist Hospital of Sacramento; and

22 WHEREAS, Frank Richardson served on the Board of
23 Directors of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, the
24 Boy Scouts of America, the Goodwill Industries of
25 Northern California, and the Sacramento State College
26 Association, and years later, after his retirement from the
27 court, he served as Chairman of Sacramento's
28 Bicentennial Commission; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the*
30 *Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Members take
31 great pleasure in commending the Honorable Frank K.
32 Richardson, Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of
33 California, for his outstanding record of judicial
34 leadership, his long and distinguished record of public
35 service, and his outstanding display of civic leadership,
36 and that they convey to him best wishes for continued
37 success in his future endeavors.

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