

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 5, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 18

Introduced by Assembly Member Hagman

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Halderman, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, Silva, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

June 23, 2011

House Resolution No. 18—Relative to the 4th of July.

1 WHEREAS, July 4, 2011, marks the 235th anniversary of the
2 signing of the Declaration of Independence, and by the adoption
3 of that document — formally entitled, “The unanimous Declaration
4 of the thirteen United States of America” — the nation we today
5 know as the United States of America officially came into being,
6 an occasion forever memorialized by Abraham Lincoln in the
7 words of his Gettysburg Address as when “... our fathers brought
8 forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and
9 dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal”; and
10 WHEREAS, On June 7, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
11 at a location today known as Independence Hall, Virginia delegate
12 Richard Henry Lee brought the following resolution before the

1 Second Continental Congress of the United Colonies: “Resolved,
2 That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and
3 independent states, that they are absolved from all allegiance to
4 the British Crown, and that all political connection between them
5 and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved
6”; and

7 WHEREAS, On June 8, 1776, Lee’s resolution was referred to
8 a committee of the whole of the Continental Congress, at which
9 time they spent most of that day as well as June 10 debating
10 independence; and

11 WHEREAS, On June 11, 1776, a “Committee of Five” — with
12 Thomas Jefferson of Virginia being picked unanimously as its first
13 member, and also including John Adams of Massachusetts,
14 Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert R. Livingston of New
15 York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut — was charged with
16 drafting a declaration of independence for consideration by the
17 Continental Congress; and

18 WHEREAS, The members of the “Committee of Five” assigned
19 Jefferson the task of producing a draft declaration, and on June
20 28, 1776, he produced a draft that, with minor changes by the
21 committee members, was forwarded to the Congress for its further
22 consideration; and

23 WHEREAS, On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress
24 adopted the Lee resolution upon the affirmative vote of 12 of the
25 13 colonial delegations, an occasion that delegate and future
26 President John Adams detailed to his wife Abigail in a letter written
27 July 3, 1776, as follows: “Yesterday the greatest Question was
28 decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater perhaps,
29 never was or will be decided among Men”; and

30 WHEREAS, On July 4, 1776, after further debate and changes
31 to the committee document, the Continental Congress adopted the
32 Declaration of Independence establishing the United States of
33 America, to which John Hancock that day affixed his signature,
34 with 55 other delegates representing the 13 colonies — now states
35 of the newly created nation — signing the declaration within the
36 next several weeks; and

37 WHEREAS, July 4 is a day unlike any other — in the history
38 of the United States of America, and indeed, the world — in that
39 not only is it the day that an infant nation formally defied the most
40 powerful empire on earth in a quest for freedom, liberty, and

1 independence, but even more importantly because on that day this
2 new nation declared as a “self-evident truth” — known and
3 knowable to all persons at all times in all places throughout the
4 world — the radical notion that “all men are created equal ...
5 endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that
6 among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”; and

7 WHEREAS, Since its adoption and bold pronouncement more
8 than two centuries ago, the Declaration of Independence and the
9 principles which animate that timeless document have inspired
10 literally billions of persons around the world to pursue freedom in
11 their own nation, for themselves and their own loved ones, and for
12 their fellow men and women, and remain today an imperfectly
13 unrealized goal to which all Americans and all who cherish liberty
14 must rededicate themselves, just as the drafters and signers of the
15 Declaration of Independence did by declaring: “with a firm reliance
16 on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge[d] to
17 each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor”; and

18 WHEREAS, On this and every July Fourth, it is both proper
19 and fitting that the institutions of California government, and
20 indeed all Californians, express heartfelt gratitude and indebtedness
21 to those men and women who have served in the Armed Forces
22 of the United States, and in particular to those who have suffered
23 the injuries of battle and who have made the ultimate sacrifice in
24 protecting freedom and liberty around the world, recalling the
25 words of President Abraham Lincoln that, as a result of their
26 profound sacrifice, “... this nation, under God, shall have a new
27 birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the
28 people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”; now,
29 therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
31 Assembly of the State of California does — and intends to every
32 year immediately preceding the 4th of July — take this opportunity
33 to recognize and celebrate July 4, 2011, and the 235th anniversary
34 of the birth of our great nation and the signing of the Declaration
35 of Independence that this day represents; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Assembly of the State of California calls
37 upon all the people of the great State of California, and the United
38 States of America, to take the opportunity of the 4th of July holiday
39 to obtain a greater knowledge and understanding of the facts and
40 circumstances that compelled the 13 original colonies to declare

1 their independence, and of the timeless principles of liberty,
2 equality, and self-determination that rest at the heart of the
3 Declaration of Independence; and be it further

4 *Resolved*, That the Assembly of the State of California, on behalf
5 of a grateful citizenry, hereby expresses its heartfelt thanks,
6 appreciation, and prayers to all who have served — and who
7 currently serve — in the Armed Forces of the United States, in
8 recognition of the countless sacrifices and the indispensable role
9 these brave men and women have played even before the founding
10 of our nation on July 4, 1776, in preserving, protecting, and
11 defending the freedoms and liberties of all Americans, and
12 expanding freedom throughout the world; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall make
14 available suitable copies of this resolution for distribution by
15 Members of the Assembly of the State of California.