

House Resolution

No. 41

Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins

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August 20, 2012

House Resolution No. 41—Relative to Harvey Milk.

- 1 WHEREAS, Harvey Bernard Milk was born on May 22, 1930,
- 2 in Woodmere, New York. He was elected to the Board of
- 3 Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco in 1977. He
- 4 was the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in a
- 5 major city of the United States. He was assassinated in 1978 at
- 6 San Francisco's City Hall by a political rival. Perhaps more than
- 7 any other modern figure, Harvey Milk's life and political career
- 8 embody the rise of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
- 9 (LGBT) civil rights movement in California, across the nation,
- 10 and throughout the world; and
- 11 WHEREAS, As an openly gay leader, Harvey Milk encouraged
- 12 LGBT individuals to be visible in society. During the Gay Freedom

1 Day Parade of June 25, 1978, he told the crowd, “Gay people, we
2 will not win their rights by staying quietly in our closets”; and

3 WHEREAS, Harvey Milk’s legacy as a civil rights leader is still
4 felt today. Harvey Milk was named one of TIME Magazine’s most
5 influential people of the 20th century. Many institutions and
6 organizations are named for Harvey Milk, including the Harvey
7 Milk Recreational Arts Center, the Harvey Milk Civil Rights
8 Academy, the Harvey Milk Institute, the Eureka Valley/Harvey
9 Milk Memorial Branch Library, and the Harvey Milk
10 Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Democratic Club in San
11 Francisco; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2009, President Barack Obama posthumously
13 awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harvey Milk. The
14 State of California has designated May 22 annually as “Harvey
15 Milk Day,” and Harvey Milk has been inducted into the California
16 Hall of Fame; and

17 WHEREAS, The Harvey Milk Foundation, the International
18 Court Council, and the GLBT Historic Task Force of San Diego
19 have been leaders in raising awareness of the contributions of
20 Harvey Milk by, among other efforts, urging the Postmaster
21 General of the United States to issue a commemorative stamp
22 honoring Harvey Milk; and

23 WHEREAS, Harvey Milk’s life and social contributions have
24 left an indelible mark on the history of our nation and hold a special
25 meaning for the people of California; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
27 Assembly urges the Postmaster General of the United States to
28 issue a commemorative stamp honoring Harvey Milk and his work
29 in the LGBT movement for civil rights and equality; and be it
30 further

31 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
32 of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the
33 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
34 the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and
35 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
36 States, to the Postmaster General of the United States, and to the
37 author for appropriate distribution.

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