
Introduced by Senator Correa
(Principal coauthor: Senator Harman)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Mansoor and Solorio)

March 21, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27—Relative to Black April Memorial Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 27, as introduced, Correa. Black April Memorial Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of April 23 to April 30, 2011, inclusive, as Black April Memorial Week, a special time for Californians to remember the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War era, and to hope for a more humane and just life for the people of Vietnam.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, April 30, 2011, marks the 36th anniversary of the
2 fall 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, Fifty-eight thousand one hundred sixty-nine people
9 were killed and 304,000 were wounded out of the 2.59 million
10 people who served in the Vietnam War. One out of every 10
11 Americans who served in Vietnam became a casualty of war; and
12 WHEREAS, After the fall of Saigon, over 135,000 Vietnamese
13 fled to the United States, including former military and government

1 officials and Vietnamese who had worked for the United States
2 during the war, and their families; and

3 WHEREAS, Thousands of people took boats in order to leave
4 Vietnam in the late 1970s to mid-1980s. The successful ones
5 reached refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the
6 Philippines, and Hong Kong; while approximately one-half of the
7 people fleeing Vietnam perished at sea; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census for 2010,
9 more than 465,000 Vietnamese live in California, with the largest
10 concentration of Vietnamese found outside of Vietnam residing
11 in Orange County; and

12 WHEREAS, We must teach our children and future generations
13 important lessons from the Vietnam War, including how the plight
14 of the Vietnamese refugees following the end of war serves as a
15 powerful example of the values of freedom and democracy; and

16 WHEREAS, We, the people of California, should actively
17 rededicate ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual
18 freedom, and equal protection under the laws of a just and
19 democratic world. Californians should set aside moments of time
20 every year on April 30 to give remembrance to the soldiers, medical
21 personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War era in
22 pursuit of freedom; and

23 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout
24 California will commemorate April 30, 2011, as Black April, a
25 day of remembrance; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
27 *thereof concurring*, That in recognition of the great tragedy and
28 suffering and lives lost during the Vietnam War era, the week of
29 April 23, 2011, to April 30, 2011, inclusive, shall be proclaimed
30 Black April Memorial Week, a special time for Californians to
31 remember the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War era,
32 and to hope for a more humane and just life for the people of
33 Vietnam; and be it further

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