

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 167

Introduced by Assembly Members Achadjian and Nazarian
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brown, Ian Calderon, Gatto,
Holden, Olsen, Patterson, and Wilk)
(Coauthor: Senator Cannella)

July 3, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 167—Relative to William Saroyan Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 167, as introduced, Achadjian. William Saroyan Day.

This measure would recognize August 31, 2014, as William Saroyan Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On August 31, 1908, William Stonehill Saroyan
2 was born in Fresno, California and resided there for the majority
3 of his life before his death on May 18, 1981; and
4 WHEREAS, William Saroyan served in the United States Army
5 during World War II and was stationed in Astoria, Queens, New
6 York; and
7 WHEREAS, William Saroyan was the father of two children,
8 Aram and Lucy; and
9 WHEREAS, William Saroyan has over 4,000 literary works to
10 his credit, dating from the late 1920s to the early 1980s; and
11 WHEREAS, William Saroyan wrote *The Time of Your Life*, for
12 which he was awarded the New York Drama Critics’ Circle award
13 in 1939 and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1940; and

1 WHEREAS, William Saroyan wrote *The Human Comedy*, which
2 earned him an Academy Award for Best Original Motion Picture
3 Story in 1943; and

4 WHEREAS, William Saroyan was inducted into the American
5 Theater Hall of Fame in 1979; and

6 WHEREAS, Many of William Saroyan's stories are set in his
7 native Fresno, drawing international attention to this region; and

8 WHEREAS, William Saroyan promoted the Armenian culture,
9 drawing international attention to the Armenian culture at a time
10 when his people were continually met with prejudice and
11 oppression; and

12 WHEREAS, William Saroyan's works portrayed the immigrant
13 experience in America and depicted human values such as freedom
14 and universal benevolence and emphasized the "basic goodness"
15 of all people; and

16 WHEREAS, William Saroyan is recognized as one of the most
17 prominent literary figures of the mid-20th century; now, therefore,
18 be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes August 31,
21 2014, as the anniversary of the birth of William Stonehill Saroyan,
22 and calls upon all Californians to participate in appropriate
23 observances to remember William Stonehill Saroyan as one of the
24 most prominent literary figures of the mid-20th century; and be it
25 further

26 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
27 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.