

Introduced by Senator Correa

**(Coauthors: Senators Beall, Block, Hill, Pavley, Steinberg, Vidak,
Walters, Wolk, and Wyland)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Allen, Hagman, Harkey, Mansoor,
and Salas)

April 10, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 111—Relative to Black April
Memorial Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 111, as introduced, Correa. Black April Memorial Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of April 23 to April 30, 2014, 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 more justice and liberty for the people of Vietnam.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, April 30, 2014, marks the 39th 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

1 WHEREAS, After the fall of Saigon, over 135,000 Vietnamese
2 people and their families fled to the United States, including former
3 military personnel, government officials, and those who had
4 worked for the United States during the war; and

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

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

14 WHEREAS, Human rights, religious freedom, democracy, and
15 protection against threats of aggression are important concerns of
16 Vietnamese Americans; and

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

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

28 WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout
29 California will commemorate April 30, 2014, as Black April, a
30 day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom,
31 including freedom of expression, freedom of press, and Internet
32 freedom; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
34 *thereof concurring*, That in recognition of the great tragedy and
35 suffering and lives lost during the Vietnam War, the week of April
36 23, 2014, to April 30, 2014, inclusive, shall be proclaimed Black
37 April Memorial Week, a special time for Californians to remember
38 the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War era, and to hope
39 for more justice and liberty for the people of Vietnam; and be it
40 further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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