

House Concurrent Resolution 34

Sponsored by Representative TRAN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Recognizes and honors Southeast Asian Americans in Oregon and United States and all those lost in Cambodian Genocide and other conflicts in Southeast Asia.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas April 13 to 17 is a special time for many Southeast Asian people—a time of renewal, reflection and sharing of cultural heritage, with New Year celebrations in Southeast Asian communities in and from Thailand (Songkran), Laos (Pi Mai), Myanmar (Thingyan) and Cambodia (Choul Chnam Thmey); and

Whereas for the Cambodian American community, April is also a time of mourning; and

Whereas April 17, 2023, marked both the 48th anniversary of the Khmer Rouge seizing control of Cambodia and the beginning of the Cambodian Genocide in which approximately two million people, or almost a quarter of the Cambodian population, died in the Killing Fields; and

Whereas in Southeast Asian communities, the history of the conflict has scarcely been talked about following the U.S. Secret War in Laos and the war in, and withdrawal from, Vietnam; and

Whereas the initial resettlement of Southeast Asian refugees to the United States between 1975 and 1979 resulted in the passage of the Refugee Act of 1980, paving the way for hundreds of thousands of immigrants and refugees to resettle across the country; and

Whereas people of Cambodian, Thai, Lao, Hmong, Mien and Burmese heritage, and members of many other Southeast Asian communities, live and work in Oregon and contribute to the rich history and cultural tapestry of this state; and

Whereas in 2018, the Cambodian American Community of Oregon worked with Governor Kate Brown to proclaim April 2018 as Cambodian American Heritage Month and Memorial for the Cambodian Genocide; and

Whereas on March 21, 2022, the California State Senate introduced Senate Resolution SR-78, recognizing the week of April 11 to April 17, 2022, as Cambodian Genocide Memorial Week; and

Whereas other states of the United States, including Massachusetts, Minnesota and Washington, have recognized and honored Southeast Asian communities individually or collectively; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor the history, resiliency and strength of all Southeast Asian Americans throughout Oregon and across the greater United States; and be it further

Resolved, That we memorialize all those who lost their lives in the Cambodian Genocide and defending freedom and democracy in the U.S. Secret War in Laos, the Vietnam War and other con-

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 flicts throughout Southeast Asia, and honor all survivors of those conflicts living in Oregon today.

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