

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 17

Sponsored by Representatives TRAN, PHAM H, Senator WOODS; Representatives GAMBA, LIVELY, NELSON, NGUYEN D, NGUYEN H, WATANABE, Senators BROADMAN, FREDERICK, GELSER BLOUIN, GOLDEN, JAMA, MANNING JR, MCLANE, PATTERSON, PHAM K

Whereas April 13 to 17 is a special time for many Cambodian people: a time of renewal, reflection and sharing of cultural heritage, with New Year celebrations in Cambodia (Choul Chnam Thmey) and other communities; and

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

Whereas on April 12, 1975, the United States withdrew from Cambodia in Operation Eagle Pull; and

Whereas April 17, 2025, is the 50th anniversary of both the Khmer Rouge seizing control of Cambodia on April 17, 1975, 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 the United States, the history of the conflict and the decades after have scarcely been talked about; and

Whereas the initial resettlement of Cambodian and other 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 heritage 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 Cambodian 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-third Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor the history, resiliency and strength of all Cambodian 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 honor all survivors of the conflict living in Oregon today.

Adopted by House March 24, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate April 28, 2025

Rob Wagner, President of Senate