

RESOLUTION NO. 4934

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER DESIGNATING APRIL 23-30
"BLACK APRIL MEMORIAL WEEK"

WHEREAS, April 30, 2019 marks the 44th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the start of the exodus of several million Vietnamese from Vietnam after the Communist take-over of South Vietnam's capital, Saigon, on April 30, 1975; and

WHEREAS, for many Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans who were directly involved in the war and Vietnamese-Americans who have settled in the United States, the Vietnam War was a tragedy full of suffering and the loss of American, Vietnamese, and Southeast Asian lives; and

WHEREAS, from 1961 to 1975, inclusive, approximately 300,000 members of the Army Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces were killed and 304,000 United States Armed Forces and more than 1,000,000 members of the ARVN were wounded; and

WHEREAS, after the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, nearly 300,000 members of the ARVN were sent to reeducation camps, where more than 20,000 died and many imprisoned up to 17 years before they were released; and

WHEREAS, during the evacuation of Saigon, the first wave of Vietnamese refugees, approximately 135,000, consisted mainly of military personnel, urban and educated professionals whose association with the U.S. Military or the South Vietnamese government made them targets of the communist forces, took temporary shelter through several refugee camps in the U.S. and international; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1976, and through the mid-1980s, a second wave of Vietnamese refugees, comprised mostly of "boat people," left everything behind to escape from Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, suffering from and seeing no future under communism, nearly 800,000 "boat people" risked their lives in small, dangerous vessels to travel to resettlement camps in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines before eventually being resettled in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross estimated that during that period, at least 300,000 Vietnamese died on the high seas while trying to escape communism; and

WHEREAS, during 1986-1994, a third wave of Vietnamese refugees came to the United States under the Orderly Departure Program for the former U.S. employees and relatives of Vietnamese in the U.S. and enabled Vietnamese to depart Vietnam for

resettlement in the U.S. without having to leave their country and attempt the voyage by boat; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the US Congress passed the Operation Homecoming Act, allowing approximately 80,000 Amerasian children (offspring's of GI fathers and Vietnamese mothers) to come to America; and

WHEREAS, by 1990, the fourth wave of Vietnamese refugees began arriving in the United States under the Humanitarian Operation, and today, more than 1.5 million Vietnamese-Americans identified their race as Vietnamese in the 2010 United States Census; and

WHEREAS, through emphasis on education, Vietnamese-Americans have reached the pinnacles of American success in a variety of fields, including business and entrepreneurship, science and technology, space travel, medicine, the executive branch of the United States government, politics, the United States military, the United States judicial system; and

WHEREAS, more than 600,000 Vietnamese now reside in California, with the largest concentration of Vietnamese found outside of Vietnam residing in Orange County, particularly in the cities of Westminster, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and Fountain Valley; and

WHEREAS, Westminster, at over 40% of the population, is home to the largest percentage of Vietnamese population than any American city and with over 1,000 successful Vietnamese-own businesses, professional offices, and commercial institutions; and

WHEREAS, Westminster is considered by the Vietnamese worldwide as the cultural and spiritual capital of the Vietnamese Diaspora, while hosting a vibrant community full of educational, civic, cultural, sport and economic activities; and

WHEREAS, refugees and immigrants from South Vietnam who came to the United States and settled as free Vietnamese-Americans are honored and remembered for their sacrifices for freedom and human rights and their ongoing contributions to our democratic society; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order S-14-06 was issued by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and continued by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. who also issued an official statement acknowledging his support of the Vietnamese Freedom and Heritage flag; and

WHEREAS, the executive order honors the contributions of the Vietnamese-American community to the State of California and recognizes their love for democracy, justice, and tolerance, upon which the symbol of the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom flag was established; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom flag, yellow with three horizontal red stripes, is the only symbol that can unite most Vietnamese around the world and bring them together under the banner that symbolizes the aspiration for freedom and democracy in their homeland; and

WHEREAS, The Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom flag, dating back to 1948, has been and will continue to be a symbol of resilience, freedom, and democracy to many Vietnamese-Americans in Westminister, throughout California, and is also an important symbol in the history of Vietnamese-Americans; and

WHEREAS, although united in sorrow as they commemorate April 30th, also known as Black April, an occasion to pray and reflect on the sacrifices of the past, Vietnamese-American residents in Westminister in particular and, throughout California, consider Black April a recommitment of the Vietnamese people in their yearning for freedom and democracy in their homeland.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. In recognition of the Fall of South Vietnam to the North Vietnamese Communists, the week of April 23 to April 30 inclusive, shall be proclaimed "Black April Memorial Week," as a special time for the residents of Westminister to remember the Vietnamese Communist take-over of South Vietnam, the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War and its tragic aftermath, and to continue the determination in advocating for a Vietnam that respects the human and civil rights of its own citizens.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption hereof.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13th day of March 2019 by the following vote:

AYES:	COUNCIL MEMBERS:	TA, HO, CONTRERAS, DO, NGUYEN
NOES:	COUNCIL MEMBERS:	NONE
ABSENT:	COUNCIL MEMBERS:	NONE



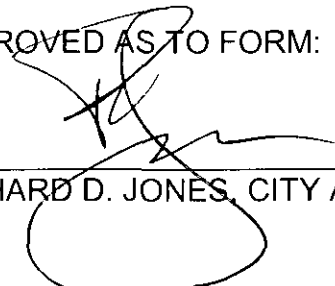
TRI TA, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CHRISTINE CORDON, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



RICHARD D. JONES, CITY ATTORNEY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss.
CITY OF WESTMINSTER)

I, CHRISTINE CORDON, hereby certify that I am the duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Westminster and that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Westminster held on the 13th day of March 2019.



Christine Cordon, City Clerk