

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021

AS BLACK APRIL MEMORIAL MONTH

- WHEREAS, April 30, 2021, marks the 46th anniversary of the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, to communism; 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 great suffering and the loss of American, Vietnamese, and Southeast Asian lives; and
- WHEREAS, Fifty-eight thousand one hundred sixty-nine Americans were killed and 304,000 were wounded out of the 2.59 million people who served in the Vietnam War. One out of every ten Americans who served in Vietnam became a casualty of war; and
- WHEREAS, The Vietnam War resulted in the deaths of 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers and two million Vietnamese civilians; and
- WHEREAS, After the fall of Saigon, over 135,000 Vietnamese people and their families fled to the United States, including former military personnel, government officials, and those who had worked for the United States during the war; and
- WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of people took boats in order to leave Vietnam in the late 1970s to mid-1990s. The successful emigrants reached refugee camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong; while approximately one-half of the people fleeing Vietnam perished at sea; and
- WHEREAS, According to the United States Census for 2010, more than 465,000 Vietnamese live in California, with the largest concentration of Vietnamese found outside of Vietnam residing in Orange County and Santa Clara County; and
- WHEREAS, Human rights, religious freedom, democracy, and protection against threats of aggression are important concerns of Vietnamese Americans; and
- WHEREAS, We must teach our children and future generations important lessons from the Vietnam War, including how the plight of the Vietnamese refugees following the end of war serves as a powerful example of the values of freedom and democracy; and

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

WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities throughout California will commemorate April 30, 2021, as Black April, a day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom, including freedom of expression, freedom of press, and internet freedom;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Garden Grove City Council, that in recognition of the great tragedy and suffering and lives lost during the Vietnam War, the month of April 2021 shall be proclaimed as Black April Memorial Month, a special time for citizens to remember the countless lives lost during the Vietnam War era, and to hope for more justice and liberty for the people of Vietnam.

April 13, 2021