

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

DATE: June 10, 2008

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION – Approve a Resolution supporting a petition to the Congress of the United States of America to reestablish May 30th of each year as our Nation's official and traditional Memorial Day in honor of all America's deceased veterans who have served in the military services in defense of this great and noble Nation.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a Resolution supporting a petition to the Congress of the United States of America to reestablish May 30th of each year as our Nation's official and traditional Memorial Day in honor of all America's deceased veterans who have served in the military services in defense of this great and noble Nation.

BACKGROUND

The Board is being asked to approve a Resolution in support of reestablishing May 30th as the official Memorial Day recognized by our Nation in honor of all America's deceased veterans.

Memorial Day was first known as "Decoration Day" and began as a declaration in General Order #11 on May 5, 1868 by former Union General John A. Logan, then Commander of a Union veteran's organization known as the Grand Army of the Republic. The purpose was to designate a specific date set aside for honoring fallen Civil War comrades and decorating their graves in recognition of their ultimate sacrifice for our country. At the conclusion of World War I, Memorial Day, May 30th of each year, was established as the date to honor all deceased American veterans who served in any and all wars in defense of our country.

In 1971, the day of observance for Memorial Day was changed to the last Monday in May as a part of the National Holiday Act (P.L. 90-363). This made the Memorial Day Holiday a "three-day-weekend" hence altering the original intent to observe Memorial Day in honor of our fallen countrymen. This Resolution is being presented in support of reestablishing Memorial Day on May 30th of each year as originally intended.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION PETITIONING
THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO
REESTABLISH MAY 30TH OF EACH YEAR AS OUR NATION'S
OFFICIAL AND TRADITIONAL MEMORIAL DAY IN HONOR OF ALL
AMERICA'S DECEASED VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE
MILITARY SERVICES IN DEFENSE OF THIS GREAT AND NOBLE NATION.

Resolution No: _____

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held, June 10, 2008, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Jim Holmes
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest:
Clerk of said Board

Ann Holman

Whereas, Memorial Day, May 30th of each year, became a special day eventually observed throughout the Nation, until the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L.90-363) sadly passed into law that Memorial Day officially would be observed on the "last Monday of May," hence making Memorial Day a "three-day weekend," not the original intent of the observance; and

Whereas, Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, began as a declaration in General Order #11 by former Union General John A. Logan, then Commander of a Union veteran's organization know as the Grand Army of the Republic, on May 5, 1868, formally designated May 30th as a day set aside "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decoration the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country" during the Civil War; and

Whereas, at the conclusion of World War I, Memorial Day, May 30th of each year, became a day to honor all deceased American veterans who served in any and all wars in defense of their country; and

Whereas, Memorial Day in its now "three-day weekend" tradition since 1971, has lost significance with many of the American citizens, and official observances and attendance has declined to the detriment of the original intent and tradition of honoring the deceased American veterans; and

Whereas, those who have gallantly served our Nation and passed from amongst us deserve to be honored by our Countrymen on a traditional day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Placer County Board of Supervisors, assembled in a general meeting, does hereby submit a Resolution to The State of California, and The Congress of the United States of America, petitioning the Congress of the United States of America to reestablish May 30th of each year as our Nation's official and traditional Memorial Day for the honoring of all America's deceased veterans who have served in the military services in defense of this great and noble Nation. And, further, that all states and employers observe the May 30th traditional date rather than the "last Monday in May," a "three-day weekend" date.