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**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER TOM**

**(COAUTHOR: SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROLFE)**

(COAUTHOR: SENIOR SENATOR MACALLISTER)

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

AFP 3: CALIFORNIA CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY.

UNDER EXISTING LAW, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES MAY PROCLAIM ANY DAY AS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY OR A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD RECOGNIZE MAY 10 AS A FEDERAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE TO HONOR THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS WHO LABORED FROM 1865 TO 1869.

VOTE MAJORITY.

AFP : RELATING TO FEDERAL OBSERVANCES.

WHEREAS, THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD WAS ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE ENGINEERING FEATS OF THE 19TH CENTURY; AND

WHEREAS, THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD TOOK SIX YEARS AND STRETCHED FOR NEARLY 2,000 MILES; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMPLETION OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD FACILITATED COMMERCE AND REDUCED CROSS-COUNTRY TRAVEL TIMES FROM SIX MONTHS TO A SINGLE WEEK; AND

WHEREAS, THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 10, 2019; AND

WHEREAS, NEARLY 12,000 CHINESE IMMIGRANTS WERE EMPLOYED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD, COMPRISING MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE WORKFORCE OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD; AND

WHEREAS, THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS WERE CONSIDERED INDISPENSABLE BY THEIR FOREMEN AND WERE RESPECTED FOR THEIR WORK ETHIC AND DISCIPLINE; AND

WHEREAS, THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS SET A WORLD RECORD BY LAYING 10 MILES OF RAILROAD TRACK IN JUST ONE WORK DAY; AND

WHEREAS, THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS WERE GIVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT, DANGEROUS JOBS AND WERE PAID LOWER WAGES THAN OTHER RAILROAD WORKERS; AND

WHEREAS, NEARLY 1,200 CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS DIED FROM WORK ACCIDENTS, AVALANCHES, AND EXPLOSIONS WHILE WORKING IN THE SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS; AND

WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR HAS INDUCTED THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS INTO THE HALL OF HONOR FOR THEIR COURAGE IN ORGANIZING IN PURSUIT OF FAIR WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS; AND

WHEREAS, THROUGH THEIR FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE MILLIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS WHO CAME TO THE UNITED STATES AFTER THEM; AND

WHEREAS, BOTH THE DESCENDANTS OF THESE WORKERS AND THE WIDER ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY VIEW THE SACRIFICES OF THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS AS INTEGRAL TO THE CREATION OF THE VIBRANT AND GROWING ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY THAT EXISTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TODAY; AND

WHEREAS, THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS CONTINUE TO HAVE A PROFOUND, POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE BY ADVANCING THE IDEALS OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND THE DIGNITY OF WORK FOR EVERYONE; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2017 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT A FEDERAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE BE DESIGNATED FOR THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS WHO LABORED FROM 1865 TO 1869; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT MAY 10, 2018, AND MAY 10 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, BE MEMORIALIZED AND ESTABLISHED AS A DAY IN MEMORY OF THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS WHO LABORED FROM 1865 TO 1869; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGING, AND TO EACH SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE FROM CALIFORNIA IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.