



Peace and Freedom Party of California

Legislative Committee

Kevin Akin, Riverside; Mary Lou Finley, San Diego; Dave Kadlecsek, Vice Chair, Sacramento; Tom Lacey, Secretary, San Francisco;
Debra Reiger, Sacramento; John Reiger, Chair, Sacramento; Maureen Smith, Santa Cruz; Alice Stek, Los Angeles; C. T. Weber, Legislative Liaison, Sacramento.

August 27, 2023

Honorable Senator Janet Nguyen
1021 O Street, Suite 7130
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Subject: SCR 26 (Nguyen) Republic of Vietnam Month - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Nguyen:

The Peace and Freedom Party strongly opposes Senate Concurrent Resolution 26.

The Peace and Freedom Party strongly objects to any proposal to declare a "Republic of Vietnam Month." The government proposed for commemoration was a puppet government of foreign occupiers, the successor of the French puppet regime that was defeated in 1954 by the Vietnamese people. Under the Geneva Accords of 1955, the French-supported forces were to withdraw to the south pending an election that would determine a government for the united country. The western powers recognized that Ho Chi Minh and his government would overwhelmingly be chosen by the Vietnamese people, north and south. So, under the auspices of the United States a puppet government was set up in the South, consisting of corrupt business interests, quisling soldiers of the prior French occupiers, opportunists, and outright criminals. This government held a false election in which the overwhelming choice of the Vietnamese was not on the ballot, and the Ngo Dinh Diem regime went on from that to become more and more violent and oppressive. Vietnamese patriots who wanted independence and unity were imprisoned, tortured, and killed. Diem was overthrown in 1963 (by order of the US President, as we now know), and a succession of military regimes came and went, while the violent oppression continued. The so-called Constitution of 1956 was never actually implemented, the elections were fraudulent, the orders came from abroad, and until the fall of the shameful Saigon regime in 1975 Vietnamese unity and self-rule were impossible.

Vietnam, like all countries, has plenty of problems today. But Vietnam is united, it is run by Vietnamese, and its growing economy provides for its population better as time goes by. The Peace and Freedom Party, like all American organizations, should have no say in how Vietnam is run. But we strongly object to honoring in any way the violent, oppressive and corrupt Saigon regime of 1956-1975.

Our party, which was organized in 1967 and won ballot status in 1968, was put together originally to provide a ballot line for candidates who opposed the US war against Vietnam. We welcomed refugees and immigrants from Vietnam, we recognize the contributions most of them make to California and the United States, and we are proud to have some of them as registered voters in our party. Official proclamations of support for the fallen corrupt regime are no more appropriate than commemorations of the Confederate States of America, or other bad actors in history.

Therefore, we strongly oppose SCR 26. To discuss our position on this bill please contact me at 951-675-2813 (mobile), or John Reiger at reigers@earthlink.net

Sincerely,

Kevin Akin

Kevin Akin
Legislative Committee Member
Peace and Freedom Party of California

John C. Reiger

John C. Reiger
Legislative Committee Chairperson
Peace and Freedom Party of California