

**EVERGREEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
BLACK APRIL COMMEMORATION**

Resolution # 11/2023-24

WHEREAS, April 30, 1975, marks a tragic day steeped in tears and loss for the South Vietnamese people, signifying the fall of Saigon to the communists, and as April 30, 2024, commemorates the 49th anniversary of this event; and,

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War represented a profound tragedy for many Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans directly involved in the conflict, as well as for Vietnamese Americans who have since resettled in the United States, resulting in significant suffering and the loss of American, Vietnamese, and Southeast Asian lives; and,

WHEREAS, following the Fall of Saigon, millions of Vietnamese and their families sought refuge in surrounding areas and the United States, including former military personnel, government officials, and individuals who had supported the United States during the war; and,

WHEREAS, in the late 1970s to mid-1980s, thousands of Vietnamese undertook perilous journeys by sea aboard small wooden boats, risking their lives to flee Vietnam. These refugees reached camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Hong Kong, with approximately half perishing at sea; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau reported over 788,000 Vietnamese-Americans living in California in 2020, with 154,000 Vietnamese-Americans residing in Santa Clara County in the same year; and,

WHEREAS, it is imperative to educate our children and future generations about the Vietnam War and its aftermath, including the plight of Vietnamese refugees, which serves as a powerful testament to the values of freedom and democracy; and,

WHEREAS, we must actively recommit ourselves to the principles of human rights, individual freedom, sovereignty, and equal protection under just and democratic laws; and,

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Vietnamese-Americans recognize and embrace the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag, also known as the former Republic of Vietnam, a yellow flag with three horizontal of red stripes (Cờ Vàng Ba Sọc Đỏ), as the flag of the Vietnamese-American Community; and,

WHEREAS, the Evergreen School District will recognize the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag of South Vietnam (Cờ Vàng Ba Sọc Đỏ) as the flag of the Vietnamese-American community within the Evergreen Elementary School District; and,

WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities will observe April 30, 2024, as Black April, a day dedicated to remembrance and the reaffirmation of principles such as freedom of religion, expression, press, and Internet freedom; now, therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Evergreen School District acknowledges:

1. The District hereby recognizes and reaffirms the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag, comprising three red stripes upon a field of gold (Cờ Vàng Ba Sọc Đỏ), as the cultural and heritage flag of the District's Vietnamese-American community and as a symbol of the community's continued struggle for freedom and liberty for the people of Vietnam; and
2. The District commemorates the anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, and acknowledges and recognizes the Vietnamese-American community's commitment to the principles of democracy, justice and the protection and advancement of human rights on which the United States was founded; and
3. The Board of Trustees encourages the recognition, commemoration and honoring of the anniversary of the Fall of Saigon, also known as Black April, each year at the District's school sites including the teaching and discussion of the significance of the impact of the Fall of Saigon on the lives of Vietnamese-Americans and the contributions of the Vietnamese-American community to the enrichment of our language, perspective and cultural diversity of San José, our Evergreen community and our school district; and
4. The District encourages our Vietnamese American students and staff to share their family's history, values and to wear appropriate Vietnamese American attire that reflect their family history, heritage and culture; and
5. The Board of Trustees invites and encourages staff and students of all cultural backgrounds to participate in the commemoration and discussion to better understand the history that helped shape San José, our Evergreen community and our school district as who WE are today.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Evergreen School District on this 18th day of April, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSENT: —

I, Jim Zito, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Evergreen School District of Santa Clara County, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a meeting thereof held at its place of meeting on the date shown above and by the vote above stated, which resolution is on file in the office of said Board.


Clerk, Governing Board of Trustees