

A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POMONA PROCLAIMING MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2019 AS “BLACK APRIL MEMORIAL DAY” IN THE CITY OF POMONA

WHEREAS, April 30, 2019, marks the 44th year since the Fall of Saigon to communism, on April 30, 1975; and

WHEREAS, the combined United States and South Vietnamese fatalities among servicemen and women during the Vietnam War reached more than half-a-million, with approximately 800,000 additional troops being wounded in combat. Millions of Vietnamese civilians suffered casualties and death as a result of the extended conflict; and

WHEREAS, after the Fall of Saigon, in the late 1970s to mid-1980s, millions of Vietnamese and their families fled Vietnam to surrounding areas, in perilous journeys by small wooden boat, and to the United States, including, but not limited to, former military personnel, government officials, and those who had worked for the United States during the war; in search of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census for 2010, more than 580,000 Vietnamese live in California, with the largest concentration of Vietnamese residents found outside of Vietnam residing in the Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside, with many residing in the Pomona Valley area since 1975; and

WHEREAS, we, the people of Pomona, 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. Pomonans should set aside moments of time every year on April 30th to give remembrance to the soldiers, medical personnel, and civilians who died during the Vietnam War in pursuit of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, Vietnamese American communities here and overseas commemorate April 30th as Black April Memorial Day, a day of remembrance and rededication to the principles of freedom, including freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of press, and Internet freedom; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the great tragedy and suffering, and lives lost during the Vietnam War, the day of April 30 shall be proclaimed Black April Memorial Day, a special time for Pomonans to remember the lives lost during the Vietnam War era and to hope for a more humane and just life for the people of Vietnam.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF POMONA does hereby proclaim

April 30, 2019

as

“Black April Memorial Day”

Dated this 6th day of May, 2019.