



Home	Bill Information	California Law	Publications	Other Resources	My Subscriptions	My Favorites
------	------------------	----------------	--------------	-----------------	------------------	--------------

ACR-199 Archbishop Oscar A. Romero: 38th Anniversary of his death. (2017-2018)

SHARE THIS:  

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 199

CHAPTER 50

Relative to Archbishop Oscar A. Romero.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 01, 2018.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 199, Carrillo. Archbishop Oscar A. Romero: 38th Anniversary of his death.

This measure would recognize the contributions of the late Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador on the 38th Anniversary of his death. The measure also would recognize the contributions of the El Salvadoran community in California and would proclaim March 24, 2018, as the Day of Remembrance of Archbishop Oscar A. Romero in California.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, It is estimated that approximately 900,000 to one million Salvadorans live in California. Salvadorans constitute the second largest Latino community in California, and are now United States citizens, active voters, business owners, and professionals who contribute to the California economy; and

WHEREAS, El Salvador and California share many common interests, and both would benefit from increased trade, investment, tourism, and cultural, educational, and scientific exchanges; and

WHEREAS, The 12-year Salvadoran civil war, which began in the early 1980s and took the lives of over 75,000 Salvadorans, resulted in a massive influx of refugees to California, specifically to Los Angeles and San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, El Salvador and California are linked by the historic cultural relations between its people, and as such, there is an important opportunity to promote economic, commercial, cultural, and business relations; and

WHEREAS, The figure of the late Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar A. Romero, as the ultimate pastor of the Salvadoran people, represents the moral voice against the injustices and human rights violations that led many Salvadorans to flee their country and seek refuge in the United States, establishing communities in major cities, including the City of Los Angeles, which is currently a sister city to San Salvador; and

WHEREAS, The Salvadoran communities in major cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles are home to the largest concentration of Salvadoran nationals in the United States, making them inextricably linked to the nation of El Salvador. These communities embrace the memory of Archbishop Romero as a matter of national identity; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Romero's humble heroism and advocacy for the poor and the persecuted made him the "Voice of the Voiceless," especially in light of his constant efforts to stop the violence during the Salvadoran Civil War. Archbishop Romero went so far as to send a letter to United States President Jimmy Carter asking him to stop any American support for the Salvadoran

military or political oligarchy that was oppressing its people and committing widespread, egregious human rights violations against the Salvadoran people. Ultimately, Archbishop Romero's calls for the Salvadoran military and security forces to end their acts of violence and the repression of Salvadoran citizens led to his assassination by the extremist elements of the Salvadoran government; and

WHEREAS, Archbishop Romero was declared a martyr by Pope Francis in 2015, paving the way for his beatification, which took place in May 2015, allowing him to be considered for canonization as a saint. Latin American church groups often proclaim Romero an unofficial patron saint of the Americas and El Salvador, and Catholics in El Salvador often refer to him as "San Romero," as well as "Monseñor Romero." Outside of Catholicism, Romero is honored by other Christian denominations, including the Church of England; and

WHEREAS, On March 7, 2018, Pope Francis took the last major step toward sainthood for the late Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, an outspoken advocate for the poor who was killed during his country's civil war; and

WHEREAS, March 24, 2018, is a special occasion, as it will mark the 38th Anniversary of Archbishop Oscar A. Romero's martyrdom; and

WHEREAS, Since Los Angeles became a sister city to San Salvador in January 2005, each year, the City of Los Angeles proclaims March 24 as "The Day of Remembrance of Archbishop Oscar A. Romero," and has joined the Salvadoran community to commemorate that date; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes the important contributions of Archbishop Oscar A. Romero and joins the City of Los Angeles and the Salvadoran community in the state, the government of El Salvador, and millions of people in El Salvador and around the world to pay tribute to his life and teachings; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature proclaims March 24, 2018, as "The Day of Remembrance of Archbishop Oscar A. Romero of El Salvador in California" and joins the Salvadoran community in celebrating his life and teachings on the occasion of the 38th Anniversary of his martyrdom; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature, in the spirit of the historic cultural relations between the people of California and El Salvador, hereby recognizes the prolific and lasting example that the Archbishop of San Salvador, Monseñor Oscar A. Romero, has left for people throughout the Americas; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.