

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 27

Introduced by Assembly Member Carrillo
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cervantes, Cooper, Gipson,
Jones-Sawyer, Low, and Weber)
(Coauthors: Senators Atkins, Galgiani, and Wiener)

February 13, 2019

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 27—Relative to Bayard Rustin.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 27, as introduced, Carrillo. Bayard Rustin.

This measure, in observance of Black History Month, would honor the legacy of Bayard Rustin, who stood at the confluence of the greatest struggles for civil, legal, and human rights by African Americans, as well as the LGBTQ community, and whose focus on civil and economic rights and belief in peace and the dignity of all people remain as relevant today as ever.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In celebration of Black History Month, an annual
2 observance that recognizes the achievements of African Americans
3 and pays tribute to the generations of African Americans who
4 faced significant adversity to achieve full citizenship in American
5 society, it is appropriate to honor the legacy of the late Bayard
6 Rustin, an unsung hero of the civil rights movement, for his
7 extraordinary contributions to the advancement of equal rights for
8 all individuals and his unselfish acts of community service; and
9 WHEREAS, A staunch and dedicated American civil rights
10 activist of unquestioned integrity, Bayard Rustin devoted his life

1 to promoting and defending peace, racial equality, economic
2 justice, and human rights, and distinguished himself as a close
3 advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as a prominent
4 LGBTQ activist; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on March 17, 1912, in West Chester,
6 Pennsylvania, Bayard Rustin became a foe of racial segregation
7 and a lifelong believer in pacifist agitation, principles he diligently
8 upheld while working for the Fellowship of Reconciliation from
9 1941 to 1953 and organizing the New York branch of the Congress
10 of Racial Equality in 1941; and

11 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to changing the world for the better
12 by ending segregation in America, Bayard Rustin embarked on
13 the Journey of Reconciliation in 1947, an early version of the
14 Freedom Riders, which attempted to test the Supreme Court's
15 ruling regarding segregation of buses that crossed state lines, and
16 in the 1950's, he became a close advisor to civil rights leader Dr.
17 King and chief organizer of the Southern Christian Leadership
18 Conference; and

19 WHEREAS, A master strategist and tireless activist, Bayard
20 Rustin played a critical role in bringing nonviolent protest
21 techniques to the American civil rights movement, having
22 introduced Dr. King to Mahatma Gandhi's teachings while writing
23 publicity materials and organizing carpools, helping mold Dr. King
24 into an international symbol of peace and nonviolence, and as a
25 result of his commitment, he was entrusted to serve as the chief
26 organizer of the March on Washington in August 1963, a massive
27 demonstration to rally support for civil rights legislation pending
28 in Congress; and

29 WHEREAS, Having traveled to Alabama to meet with Dr. King,
30 Bayard Rustin worked to expand the March on Washington's focus
31 to "jobs and freedom," established its 10 goals, and when the day
32 came, he read the demands of the March, which has been deemed
33 the greatest demonstration for freedom in American history, and
34 these acts stand as a concentrated expression of his decades of
35 commitment to vociferous, but always nonviolent, protest; and

36 WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin went on to direct a one-day student
37 boycott of New York City's public schools in 1964 in protest
38 against racial imbalances and served as President of the A. Philip
39 Randolph Institute, a civil rights organization in New York City,
40 from 1966 to 1979, before his death on August 24, 1987; and

1 WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin’s incredible legacy was
2 acknowledged with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The Bayard Rustin Commemorative Stamp
5 campaign, which is co-sponsored by the National Black Justice
6 Coalition, the National LGBT Museum, and the GLBT Historic
7 Task Force, is advocating for the adoption of the Bayard Rustin
8 Commemorative Stamp in posthumous recognition of his role in
9 the civil rights movement, an honor that is merited and has been
10 long-awaited; now therefore be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
12 *thereof concurring*, That, in observance of Black History Month
13 the Legislature honors the legacy of Bayard Rustin, who stood at
14 the confluence of the greatest struggles for civil, legal, and human
15 rights by African Americans, as well as the LGBTQ community,
16 and whose focus on civil and economic rights and belief in peace
17 and the dignity of all people remain as relevant today as ever; and
18 be it further

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