

ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 30, 2012-13

HMONG NEW YEAR

WHEREAS, November will mark the beginning of the Hmong New Year Celebrations, which is celebrated in many Hmong communities around the world, including the United States, and especially California and within our school district borders; and

WHEREAS, for the Hmong community, the New Year Celebration is traditionally the most important and only holiday away from the otherwise constant routine of work; and

WHEREAS, the Hmong New Year celebration traditionally begins on the first day of the new year after the harvest season and stands as the spiritual and material marker between the old year and the new year; and

WHEREAS, Elk Grove Unified School District is a mixture of diverse cultures and ethnicities, all of which have contributed to our district's own unique and rich cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the year 2013 marks the thirty-eighth anniversary of the arrival of Hmong refugees to the United States, and it is appropriate at this time to draw special public attention to this significant milestone in the history of the Hmong people; and

WHEREAS, the recent history of Hmong refugees seeking asylum in the U.S. began in 1975 with the communist takeover of Laos; in December of that year, the federal government agreed to the resettling of the Hmong in America, and following the arrival of the first 3,466 Hmong refugees, 10,200 refugees from Laos, many of whom were Hmong who had fled across the border into Thailand, were admitted into the U.S. in 1976; and

WHEREAS, by the early 1980s, approximately 50,000 Hmong were residing in the U.S. and, by the time of the 1990 Census, the number had doubled to almost 100,000 people, and with the closure of the Thai refugee camps in 1995, thousands of Hmong returned to Laos; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau reported 169,000 Hmong living in the country, and in December 2003, the U.S. State Department announced the resettlement of 15,000 Hmong refugees from the Wat Tham Krabok camp in Thailand; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, 260,073 persons of Hmong origin were counted in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, with the largest concentration of the Hmong population (91,224) making their home in California; and

WHEREAS, the thirty-eighth anniversary of the arrival of Hmong refugees to the United States serves as a reminder to the people of our district and state of the remarkable inner strength and indomitable spirit that drives the Hmong people to persevere through daunting challenges and gives them the impetus to dream without limits; and

WHEREAS, it is important for all citizens to recognize the sincere efforts of our new Hmong American residents to integrate into our society, and to weave their most important and elaborate holiday into the cultural fabric of our district;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education recognize the Hmong New Year and thirty-eighth anniversary of the arrival of Hmong refugees to the United States and commend the Hmong people for their contributions to the rich heritage of Elk Grove Unified School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Elk Grove Unified School District join Hmong communities throughout the state in celebrating the beginning of the Hmong New Year and extend best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous new year to all Californians.