



CALIFORNIA SENATE

# RESOLUTION

By the Honorable Fran Pavley, 23rd Senatorial District;  
Relative to

## *Hungary Day*

**WHEREAS**, On May 2, 1989, the Hungarian Government ordered the dismantling of the Iron Curtain along the Austrian border to create the first opening in the historic divide between democracy and dictatorial Europe; and

**WHEREAS**, With an open border, East Germans were able to cross into Austria, the largest exodus being the "Pan-European Picnic" on August 19, 1989, when hundreds of East Germans rushed the border and escaped into Austria; and

**WHEREAS**, On September 11, 1989, Hungary fully opened her borders for citizens of the German Democratic Republic to leave legally, with Hungary's decision having a domino effect, as evidenced by the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, the Velvet Revolution taking place in Prague, Rumanians deposing their dictator, and, a year later, the Soviet Union ceasing to exist; and

**WHEREAS**, Almost every nation of the former Soviet Block has decided to choose a democratic way of life, and ten years later, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Poland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); and

**WHEREAS**, Most of the Central and Eastern European nations are allies of the United States and proud members of the European Union, and with the dream of a "Europe whole and free" coming true, the year of 1989 has become known as the year that changed Europe and then the World; and

**WHEREAS**, Hungary celebrates her most important National Day, commemorating the state-founder Saint Stephen, the first king of Hungary, on August 20, and following the democratization of Hungary, the country is once again celebrating this day as had been done centuries ago, thus symbolizing European values and a strong presence in Central Europe as a long-established, viable 100-year-old state and government; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY SENATOR FRAN PAVLEY**, That she hereby recognizes August 20, 2009, as HUNGARY DAY in the State of California, and encourages all citizens to join in the celebration of this day.

Member Resolution No. 1096  
Dated this 20th day of August, 2009.

*Fran Pavley*

Honorable Fran Pavley  
23rd Senatorial District