

1 [Celebrating the Persian New Year holiday of Nowruz and urging San Francisco's
2 representatives in Congress to co-sponsor Congressperson Michael Honda's Nowruz
3 resolution.]

4 **Resolution Celebrating the Persian New Year holiday of Nowruz and urging San**
5 **Francisco's representatives in Congress to co-sponsor Congressperson Michael**
6 **Honda's Nowruz resolution.**

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8 WHEREAS, Nowruz, meaning "New Day," occurs on the vernal equinox and celebrates
9 the beginning of Spring; and

10 WHEREAS, Nowruz marks the beginning of the Persian New Year, and is traditionally
11 the largest and most anticipated holiday in Iranian culture; and,

12 WHEREAS, Nowruz is a time of reflecting on and clearing away the trials of the
13 previous year, and ushering in hope for the new year; and,

14 WHEREAS, Nowruz begins with Sal Tahvil, the New Year's Eve, which is traditionally
15 celebrated with a countdown to the moment of the vernal equinox; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2009, the vernal equinox occurs on Friday March 20th at 4:44:30 a.m.
17 Pacific Daylight Time; and

18 WHEREAS, Sal Tahvil is followed by celebrating twelve days of Deed-o Bazdeed,
19 exchanging visits with friends and family; and,

20 WHEREAS, The Nowruz celebration concludes with Seedzah Bedar on the thirteenth
21 day, which is a day of outdoor celebrations and has become a national day of picnics in Iran;
22 and,

23 WHEREAS, Nowruz is celebrated by nearly 300 million Iranians and other peoples all
24 over the world, including in the United States, Iran, and other countries in Central Asia, South
25 Asia, Caucasus, Crimea and Balkan regions; and

1 WHEREAS, Nowruz is celebrated by more than one million Iranian-Americans of all
2 backgrounds, including those with Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Zoroastrian, and non-
3 religious backgrounds; and

4 WHEREAS, Iranian-Americans have greatly contributed to the social and economic
5 fabric of American society; and,

6 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a true melting pot of ethnicities and religions with no
7 single race representing a majority of the City's population; and

8 WHEREAS, A survey commissioned by the Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans
9 has found that 38% of Americans are unfamiliar with Iranian-Americans and 58% are
10 unfamiliar with Persian-Americans; and

11 WHEREAS, At a time of tense relations between the governments of the United States
12 and Iran, promoting and celebrating the Nowruz holiday can help with furthering
13 understanding between the peoples of our two countries; and

14 WHEREAS, Michael Honda, member of Congress, plans to introduce a resolution in
15 the United States House of Representatives in observance of Nowruz; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
17 wishes Iranian-Americans, the people of Iran, and all those who celebrate Nowruz, a
18 prosperous new year; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges San Francisco's
20 representatives in the United States Congress to sign on as co-sponsors of Congressperson
21 Honda's Nowruz resolution.

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