
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 931
Author: Grove (R) and Laird (D), et al.
Amended: 8/28/26
Vote: 27 - Urgency

SENATE ENERGY, U. & C. COMMITTEE: 13-3, 4/21/26

AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Becker, Caballero, Gonzalez, Hurtado, McNERNEY, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Stern, Wahab

NOES: Ochoa Bogh, Grove, Strickland

NO VOTE RECORDED: Dahle

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/11/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-2, 5/14/26

AYES: Cervantes, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

NOES: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 29-10, 5/19/26

AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Hurtado, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNERNEY, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

NOES: Alvarado-Gil, Choi, Dahle, Grove, Jones, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Seyarto, Strickland, Valladares

NO VOTE RECORDED: Niello

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Passed, 9/1/26

SUBJECT: Dolly Parton Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim September 25 as Dolly Parton Day.

Assembly Amendments remove the previous contents of the bill and, instead, require the Governor to annually proclaim September 25 as Dolly Parton Day.

ANALYSIS: Existing law requires the Governor to proclaim various days as days of remembrance or recognition, as specified.

This bill:

- 1) Requires the Governor to annually proclaim September 25 as Dolly Parton Day.
- 2) Includes an urgency clause to go into effect immediately.

Background

Author's Statement. According to the author's office, "SB 931 designates September 25th as Dolly Parton Day in California to honor a true American treasure whose faith, music, generosity, and unmistakable spirit touched generations around the world. Dolly was a great unifier with a remarkable ability to bring people together across all walks of life. I was incredibly honored to work alongside former Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins to bring Dolly's Imagination Library statewide in California, helping put books directly into the hands of children across our state and inspiring a lifelong love of reading. Throughout her life, Dolly gave so much of herself to others—from supporting children's hospitals and medical research to scholarships and literacy programs, she never stopped helping those in need. Most importantly, Dolly was a woman of deep faith who openly shared her love of Jesus, and while we mourn her passing, she leaves behind an extraordinary legacy of faith, generosity, music, and joy that will continue to inspire generations to come."

Dolly Parton. Dolly Rebecca Parton Dean (née Parton; January 19, 1946 – August 25, 2026) was a singularly unique individual in American History. Born in Eastern Tennessee, Parton was one of 12 children raised in a one-room cabin. From that humble beginning, Dolly would go on to become a world-wide icon, beloved by millions. Her many successful projects included such songs as "9 to 5," "Jolene," and "I Will Always Love You."

Parton's influence, however, cannot be measured by record sales or awards alone. Much of her most lasting work occurred outside the entertainment industry. In 1988, she established the Dollywood Foundation, initially focused on improving educational outcomes for children in her home community. Her early efforts included a program that encouraged students to remain in school by providing

financial incentives for completing high school. The foundation later expanded its work to include scholarships, disaster relief, health care, and other charitable endeavors. Following the 2016 wildfires in Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains, Parton established the My People Fund, ultimately providing approximately \$9 million in assistance to about 900 families who had lost their homes.

While Dolly Parton will forever be associated with the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, her connection to California was substantial and extended for nearly five decades. Parton began spending significant time in California in the late 1970s as she expanded her career beyond country music and into film and television. Her first major film role came in *9 to 5*, released in 1980, and her growing presence in Los Angeles eventually led her to establish a permanent home in the state. Parton later described Los Angeles as a place where she spent so much time working that having a home there simply made sense.

Parton's relationship with California, however, was about more than Hollywood. While Los Angeles provided a base for her entertainment career, she frequently sought out quieter and more rural parts of the state. Over the years, she lived in or owned property in West Hollywood, Hemet, Idyllwild, and Solvang. In the early 1980s, Parton spent an extended period in the Hemet area, where she was able to retreat from the demands of her career, write music, read, and enjoy a measure of privacy. She and her husband, Carl Dean, later owned a cabin in Idyllwild, which remained in the family until it was sold in 2024, with the proceeds benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California.

Parton also maintained a longstanding relationship with California's Central Coast. For nearly 40 years, she was a regular guest at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo, a destination that, with its elaborate décor and unapologetic commitment to pink, could hardly have been better suited to Parton's particular aesthetic. She reportedly visited the hotel beginning in the 1980s, often staying in different themed rooms and dining at the hotel's "Gold Rush Steak House." Her preferred booth has since been renamed "Dolly's Booth" in her honor. One of the more unexpected connections to California may be Dolly Parton's 1920s farmhouse in Solvang in Santa Barbara County. The home reportedly reminded her of her grandmother's childhood home.

Parton's California legacy will undoubtedly prove to be more significant than where she lived or vacationed. Her greatest continuing connection to the state can be viewed through the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Established in 1995, the program provides a free book each month to enrolled children from birth

through age five. The program expanded statewide in California in 2023 following legislation establishing the California Imagination Library, making Parton's early-literacy initiative available to children throughout the state. Since its creation, the Imagination Library has distributed more than 300 million books worldwide, including nearly 3 million books to California children.

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 1841 (Ramos, 2026) entitles state employees to a holiday on the fourth Friday in September, known as "Native American Day," as specified. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2017 (Haney, 2026) adds Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha to the list of state holidays, as specified. (Pending in Engrossing and Enrolling)

AB 2294 (Ta, 2026) designates Sylvia Mendez Day as a state holiday, as specified. (Pending in Engrossing and Enrolling)

AB 2455 (Haney, Chapter 49, Statutes of 2026) requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 17 as Bruce Lee Day, and designates and sets apart that date each year as having special significance, as specified.

AB 2156 (Rivas, Chapter 7, Statutes of 2026) designates March 31 as Farmworkers Day and requires the Governor to annually proclaim March 31, as Farmworkers Day.

AB 268 (Kalra, Chapter 358, Statutes of 2025) added Diwali to the list of state holidays, and authorizes public schools and state employees to take certain type of leave in recognition of Diwali, as specified.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/31/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/31/26)

None received

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9/1/26 9:26:51

**** **END** ****