

CA State Senate and Assembly joined Iranian Americans at the State Capital to celebrate the Iranian New Year (Nowruz)

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2018 – This week, bipartisan members of Californian State Senate and Assembly joined Iranian American Community members at the State Capital to celebrate the [Iranian New Year \(Nowruz\)](#). Iranian American Community of Northern California President, [Ahmad Moeinmanesh](#), welcomed event participants and by referring to the January 2018 uprising in Iran, reiterated the community’s objectives and wishes in the New Year for a free, secular, democratic, and non-nuclear republic in Iran.

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Assemblyman Kevin McCarty (D)

This well attended event featured traditional Nowruz decorations, food, and music, following similarly successful community sponsored events at the United States Congress,

California’s congressional delegation had an active participation in the Congressional celebration, including an [appearance](#) and speech by Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), as well as Congressman Tom McClintock (R-CA).

State Senator Dr. Richard Pan (D) thanked the community for coming together to celebrate Nowruz and urged the audience to, “continue to fight and hope for human rights in the country;” He also added, “we need to stand together to insure that we protect freedom around the world and for your country as well.”

Senator Bob Wieckowski (D) underscored how important it is for the community to educate California legislators about Iran related issue. “I’m old enough to remember when Iran was a prosperous country and the amount of women that were graduating from universities was exorbitant,” Senator Wieckowski said.

In his remarks, Assemblyman Dante Acosta (R) wished all his, “Persian friends a happy Nowruz and said, “thank all of you for coming up to the State Capital today and sharing your vision for a free Iran and a free Iranian people. I share that sentiment with you and I really appreciate you all coming up.” Assemblyman Kevin McCarty (D) representing Sacramento and West Sacramento area in the state assembly welcomed the audience to the state capital, which is located in his district. “This is your home as my constituents of California. This is the people’s house in Sacramento for state government,” he said. Mr. McCarty noted how Iranian-American community is celebrating Nowruz but is also, “inviting us and that’s what is really important.” He noted the importance of, “Understanding the happy New Year traditions as well as fighting for the principles that the Iranian-American community support.” “I know that you are engrained here in the culture of California and America,” he said and added, “but your heart still feels for your homeland and you want to make sure we have a free Iran for the future generations as well. So I commend you for that quest and for that leadership.”

Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado area Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (R) invoked the great Iranian literature and commended the community for fighting for, “universal values that we here in the US all believe in and that we yearn for the people of Iran to get to experience as well. So I thank you for you advocacy and for fighting for the principles that all people deserve to have respected.” Mr. Kiley also added, “Having a democratic and non-nuclear Iran for example, and being able to sanction human rights violators and fight for reform. These are such important things for anyone who has the power to speak out to do so and to try to lead the way for positive change. So I’m very proud to be with you today, to stand with you in the call for freedom and democracy in Iran... I look forward to the chance to work with you on these principles in the years ahead.”

State Assemblyman Matthew Harper (R) representing California’s 4th District said in his remarks, “It is an honor to be here to help celebrate Nowruz and also hear about the work that’s being done to celebrate and support democracy in Iran. So very happy to be here to listen to what you have to say and to be able to learn more about your organization and celebrate this happy New Year.”

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