

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 21, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 9, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 163**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Cook, Pan, Butler, and  
John A. Pérez**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members *Ammiano*, *Atkins*, *Bill Berryhill*,  
*Block*, *Bonilla*, *Donnelly*, *Gordon*, *Gorell*, *Hagman*, *Halderman*,  
*Hall*, *Harkey*, *Jeffries*, *Logue*, *Miller*, *Monning*, *Nestande*, *Nielsen*,  
*Perea*, *V. Manuel Pérez*, *Portantino*, *Solorio*, ~~and~~ *Williams*, and  
*Yamada*)**

**(Coauthors: Senators *Berryhill*, *Blakeslee*, *Cannella*, *DeSaulnier*, *Dutton*,  
*Evans*, *Fuller*, *Gaines*, *Harman*, *Lieu*, *Pavley*, *Rubio*, *Runner*,  
*Strickland*, and *Wolk*)**

June 25, 2012

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 163—Relative to the 25th anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 163, as amended, Cook. California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

This measure would recognize the 25th anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial on November 23, 2013, and encourage all Californians to take part in ceremonies, organized by the California State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America along with assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs and other veterans service organizations. This measure would call upon the state archives to display memorabilia in a special display on the Vietnam War, as provided, the California State Military Museum to prepare and display exhibits on

the Vietnam War, as provided, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to add names to the memorial, as provided.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, California has the largest United States veterans'  
2 population in the nation, ~~comprising~~ *comprised of* approximately  
3 2 million armed services veterans, which is 12.3 percent of the  
4 nationwide veteran population of nearly 25 million veterans, who  
5 represent approximately one-fifth of California's total population;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, More than 350,000 California veterans served in  
8 Vietnam, resulting in 5,822 of them being killed or missing in  
9 action, which comprised more than 10 percent of the nation's total,  
10 and 40,000 of them being wounded; and

11 WHEREAS, More California residents died in Vietnam than  
12 residents of any other state and California veterans received more  
13 Medals of Honor, Bronze Stars, and Purple Hearts than veterans  
14 of any other state; and

15 WHEREAS, The history of the California Vietnam Veterans  
16 Memorial began when Herman Woods, a double amputee who  
17 served in the 1st Air Cavalry Division, United States Army (1970),  
18 returned to California from the dedication of the National Vietnam  
19 Veterans Memorial in our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C. in  
20 1982; and

21 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Richard Floyd subsequently  
22 held a rally on the steps of the State Capitol, and over 800 people  
23 attended; he was convinced that construction of the California  
24 Vietnam Veterans Memorial was the will of California Vietnam  
25 veterans; and

26 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Richard Floyd introduced  
27 Assembly Bill 650, which created the California Vietnam Veterans  
28 Memorial in Capitol Park, that was signed into law by Governor  
29 Deukmejian in September 1983; and

30 WHEREAS, The newly formed Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
31 Commission was comprised of nine veterans, eight of whom served  
32 in Vietnam, including Linda J. McClenahan, Chairperson, Leo K.  
33 Thorsness, Medal of Honor recipient and Vice Chairperson, and  
34 members Gregory C. Green, Treasurer, Abel A. Cota, Secretary,  
35 B.T. Collins, Don A. Drumheller, Jesse G. Ugalde, Senator Jim  
36 Ellis, Assembly Member Richard E. Floyd, member and author

1 of Assembly Bill 650, and Jerri L. Dale, Executive Officer, which  
2 led to the creation of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial is  
5 located in the northeast section of the Capitol Park grounds of the  
6 State Capitol and is a standing tribute to the 5,822 servicemen and  
7 servicewomen killed and missing in action; and

8 WHEREAS, The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial was  
9 dedicated on December 10, 1988, in Capitol Park; and there were  
10 thousands in attendance at the dedication ceremonies where  
11 Brigadier General George B. Price was the keynote speaker at the  
12 dedication; and the dedication events were spread out over a  
13 two-day period, commencing with “Buddy Search” registrations,  
14 unit reunions, open houses, and concluding with the dedication  
15 ceremony in Capitol Park; and

16 WHEREAS, The theme of the memorial reflects the  
17 overwhelming majority of those who were killed in Vietnam,  
18 including 19-year-old infantry soldiers, their youth, camaraderie,  
19 the fatigue of the war, and the American women who served, with  
20 the winning entry in the opening design competition awarded to  
21 Michael Larson, a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, and Thomas  
22 Chytrowski; and

23 WHEREAS, B.T. Collins and Stan Atkinson, who had traveled  
24 to Vietnam together after the war, undertook the mission of raising  
25 the necessary funds to complete the memorial; and

26 WHEREAS, The California State Council of Vietnam Veterans  
27 of America will be the organizer of this event as they were for the  
28 2008 20th anniversary event; and

29 WHEREAS, all California components of veterans service  
30 organizations will be participating in this historic event; now,  
31 therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
33 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby commemorates  
34 2013 as the 25-year anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans  
35 Memorial, encourages all Californians to take part in the  
36 ceremonies commemorating the 25-year anniversary, to be held  
37 on November 23, 2013, including opening ceremonies; and be it  
38 further

39 *Resolved,* That the Legislature urges that all steps necessary to  
40 inform all Californians of the date of these ceremonies and

1 locations of these events be taken so that all Californians may have  
2 the opportunity to remember and honor the service, efforts, and  
3 sacrifices of Vietnam veterans, and to pay homage to those veterans  
4 who are still alive; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide  
6 assistance to the organizers of the 25th anniversary commemoration  
7 event in promoting and conducting this historic event; and be it  
8 further

9 *Resolved*, That the state archives display memorabilia that have  
10 been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, since the memorial  
11 was dedicated, and that are currently deposited in the state archives,  
12 in a special display for 2013 on the Vietnam War; and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the California State Military Museum shall  
14 prepare and display exhibits on the Vietnam War at the Department  
15 of Veterans Affairs and at the State Capitol; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That all state agencies shall promote the memorial  
17 event and honor men and women who are Vietnam War veterans;  
18 and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Department of Veterans Affairs should  
20 establish a task force to compile a list of California servicemen  
21 and servicewomen whose names may not be currently listed on  
22 the memorial so that they can be added to the memorial; and be it  
23 further

24 *Resolved*, That names should be added to the memorial of  
25 California Vietnam veterans whose passing since their service in  
26 Vietnam can reasonably be attributed to their wartime service,  
27 based upon recommendations from interested parties; and be it  
28 further

29 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the Governor to issue  
30 a proclamation on November 23, 2013, commemorating the 25th  
31 anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and be  
32 it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
34 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.