

Introduced by Senator Blakeslee

(Principal coauthors: Senators Correa, Dutton, and Harman)

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Cook and Grove)

(Coauthors: Senators Anderson and Wyland)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Conway, Halderman,
Harkey, Knight, and Valadao)

April 10, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 82—Relative to California veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 82, as introduced, Blakeslee. California veterans of the Iraq War: memorial.

This measure would commemorate and honor the service and sacrifice of the members of the United States Armed Forces who supported the operations in Iraq, and their families, as the official combat mission in Iraq draws to a close. This measure would encourage mayors and communities across the State of California to honor veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan on November 11, 2012, in Veterans Day parades, ceremonies, and other displays of our state's gratitude for their service and sacrifice. This measure would also request that the Department of General Services work with appropriate third parties to design and create a memorial for the California veterans who fought and served in Iraq and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, erect that memorial, in accordance with California law, in the State Capitol Park. This measure would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation authorizing the creation of a larger memorial commemorating and thanking those who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Nearly 1,500,000 members of the United States
2 Armed Forces, thousands of whom are residents of the State of
3 California, served in Iraq, many serving on multiple deployments;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The members of the United States Armed Forces
6 who served in support of operations in Iraq performed brilliantly
7 in a highly complex and challenging environment, and did
8 everything that was asked of them, and more, to meet the
9 requirements of the mission; and

10 WHEREAS, Thousands of members of the United States
11 National Guard and Reserves left their civilian jobs and livelihoods
12 to support operations in Iraq, making enormous contributions, and
13 serving with distinction; and

14 WHEREAS, Nearly 4,500 members of the United States Armed
15 Forces, 668 of whom were residents of the State of California,
16 made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives in support of
17 operations in Iraq; and

18 WHEREAS, More than 30,000 members of the United States
19 Armed Forces, 5,713 of whom are residents of the State of
20 California, were wounded serving in support of operations in Iraq;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Families of the members of the United States
23 Armed Forces serving in Iraq endured repeated deployments and
24 spent many holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries apart; and

25 WHEREAS, After nearly nine years of combat, we welcome
26 home our veterans and continue to support members of the United
27 States Armed Forces deployed in Afghanistan and elsewhere in
28 the world; and

29 WHEREAS, Iraq's destiny and future development now lie with
30 its people; and

31 WHEREAS, The people of the United States recognize the
32 service and sacrifices made by those members of the United States
33 Armed Forces and veterans, as well as their families; now,
34 therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
36 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature officially welcomes home
37 the members of the United States Armed Forces who served our
38 nation with honor, bravery, and distinction; pays tribute to the

1 members of the United States Armed Forces who served in support
2 of operations in Iraq; calls on the people of the State of California
3 to reflect on the service of those members of the United States
4 Armed Forces, veterans, and their families, and honor their
5 sacrifices; and commemorates and honors the contribution, service,
6 and sacrifice made by members of the United States Armed Forces
7 and their families, as the official combat mission in Iraq draws to
8 a close by erecting a memorial in the State Capitol Park; and be it
9 further

10 *Resolved*, That mayors and communities across the State of
11 California are encouraged to honor veterans who served in Iraq
12 and Afghanistan on November 11, 2012, in Veterans Day parades,
13 ceremonies, and other displays of our state's gratitude for their
14 service and sacrifice; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Department of General Services is requested
16 to work with appropriate third parties to design and create a
17 memorial honoring the California veterans who fought and served
18 in Iraq and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources
19 covering the cost, erect that memorial, in accordance with
20 California law, in the State Capitol Park; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Legislature intends to enact future legislation
22 authorizing the creation of a larger memorial commemorating and
23 thanking those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan; and be it
24 further

25 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
26 this resolution to the Director of General Services and to the author
27 for appropriate distribution.