

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 25, 2013

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 40**

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**Introduced by Senator Hueso**

*(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Corbett, Evans, and Wyland)*

*(Coauthor: Assembly Member Quirk-Silva)*

May 6, 2013

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to Korean War Armistice Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 40, as amended, Hueso. Korean War Armistice Day.

This measure would proclaim July 27, 2013, as Korean War Armistice Day. It would urge Californians to observe the anniversary and call upon them to honor and give thanks to Korean War veterans. It would also urge Governor Jerry Brown to proclaim July 27, 2013, as Korean War Armistice Day and instruct all state departments, agencies, interest groups, organizations, and individuals to fly the United States flag at half-mast on July 27, 2013, in memory of veterans from this state who died as a result of their service in Korea.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The peoples of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and  
2 the State of California have maintained close ties since September  
3 9, 1945, when Colonel Roy A. Green, a Sacramentan commanding  
4 the California National Guard's 184th Infantry Regiment (2nd  
5 California Infantry) accepted the surrender of Imperial Japanese  
6 forces south of the 38th parallel; and

1 WHEREAS, On June 25, 1950, the ROK was attacked by the  
2 armed forces of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea  
3 (DPRK); and

4 WHEREAS, On June 30, 1950, President Harry S. Truman  
5 authorized elements of the United States Army’s 24th Division  
6 stationed in Japan to intervene in the invasion of the ROK, a move  
7 that resulted in the near destruction of Task Force Smith, a  
8 reinforced infantry battalion comprised of fewer than 500  
9 personnel; and

10 WHEREAS, On June 29, Seoul, the capital of the ROK, fell for  
11 the first time, with those ROK forces north of the Han River being  
12 captured or killed; and

13 WHEREAS, The first major battle between American and DPRK  
14 forces at Taejon resulted in the 24th Infantry Division experiencing  
15 heavy losses, including its division commander, a Berkeley  
16 resident, University of California graduate, and former member  
17 of the California National Guard, Major General William F. Dean,  
18 who was captured by the DPRK, but not before he displayed  
19 personal heroism, including destroying a DPRK tank with a  
20 “bazooka,” leading to his award of the Medal of Honor following  
21 his release in 1953; and

22 WHEREAS, After being pushed into a small perimeter around  
23 the port city of Pusan located at the southeastern tip of the Korean  
24 peninsula, United Nations forces under the command of United  
25 States Army General Douglas MacArthur executed perhaps the  
26 most innovative and successful amphibious counterattack in world  
27 history at the port of ~~Inchon~~ *Incheon* on September 15, 1950,  
28 resulting in United Nations forces gaining the offensive and  
29 pushing the DPRK forces north of the 38th parallel towards the  
30 Yalu River along the border with China; and

31 WHEREAS, Units of the California National Guard were  
32 activated for the conflict, including, on August 21, 1950, the 719th  
33 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion, which was ordered into  
34 active duty for service in Korea, with this recently racially  
35 desegregated unit being followed on September 11, 1950, by the  
36 1401st and 1402nd Engineer Combat Battalions, which were still  
37 segregated; and

38 WHEREAS, The 719th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion  
39 was returned to California state control from active federal military  
40 service on April 14, 1952, and the 1401st and 1402nd Engineer

1 Combat Battalions were returned to state control from active  
2 federal service on January 17, 1955, 18 months after the armistice,  
3 as fully desegregated units; and

4 WHEREAS, On September 1, 1950, the California National  
5 Guard's 40th Infantry Division was again called into active federal  
6 service. Departing out of Oakland Army Base and Fort Mason in  
7 San Francisco in late March 1951, the division deployed to Japan  
8 for occupation duty and combat training, including nine months  
9 of participation in amphibious, air transportability, and live fire  
10 training from Mount Fuji to Sendai; and

11 WHEREAS, On October 10, 1950, the California National  
12 Guard's 196th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, along with two other  
13 National Guard squadrons from Florida and Georgia, were  
14 federalized and formed the 116th Fighter-Bomber Wing at George  
15 Air Force Base, Victorville, California; and

16 WHEREAS, On October 14, 1950, three Chinese field armies  
17 supported by aircraft from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
18 crossed the Yalu River and engaged the United Nations forces on  
19 October 25<sup>th</sup> 25, 1950; and

20 WHEREAS, On November 27, 1950, four Chinese field armies  
21 attacked the 1st Marine and 7th Infantry Divisions at the Chosin  
22 Reservoir, leading to a historic battle that resulted in the destruction  
23 of 10 Chinese Infantry Divisions and the successful breakout and  
24 withdrawal by sea of American forces that concluded on December  
25 24, 1950; and

26 WHEREAS, On July 10, 1951, the 196th Fighter-Bomber  
27 Squadron departed San Diego on the aircraft carrier USS Windham  
28 Bay with its 18 F-84E "Thunderjet" fighter-bombers, arriving at  
29 Yokosuka Naval Base on July 24, 1951; the squadron  
30 commenced combat operations from Taegu Air Base, ROK, on  
31 December 28, 1951, and on June 10, 1952, the squadron stood  
32 down and was relieved of its assignment, returning to California  
33 and reforming at the Ontario Municipal Airport in January 1953;  
34 and

35 WHEREAS, On December 23, 1951, the 40th Infantry Division  
36 received alert orders to move to Korea, where, in February 1951,  
37 it relieved the 24th Infantry Division and subsequently participated  
38 in the battles of Sandbag Castle, the Punchbowl, and Heartbreak  
39 Ridge; the division suffered 376 soldiers killed in action and 1457

1 wounded, earning the ROK Presidential Unit Citation and three  
2 individual Medals of Honor; and

3 WHEREAS, On July 27, 1953, a ceasefire between the United  
4 Nations and the DPRK took effect. Although over 53,000 ROK  
5 and United Nation troops, including more than 8,000 Americans,  
6 remain missing in action; and

7 WHEREAS, With a state of war still existing between the United  
8 Nations and the DPRK, the California Army and Air National  
9 Guard continue in the active defense of the ROK by participating  
10 in Team Spirit exercises, which ensures tactical and logistical  
11 interoperability between the respective Armed Forces of the United  
12 States and the ROK in the event that major combat operations or  
13 other emergencies occur in the future; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature urges Californians to  
16 observe the anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Day and  
17 hereby proclaims July 27, 2013, as Korean War Armistice Day,  
18 calling upon all Californians to observe this with appropriate  
19 ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to our  
20 distinguished Korean War veterans; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges Governor Jerry Brown to  
22 proclaim July 27, 2013, as Korean War Armistice Day and instruct  
23 all state departments, agencies, interest groups, organizations, and  
24 individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-mast on July  
25 27, 2013, in memory of the Californians who died as a result of  
26 their service in Korea; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
28 this resolution to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to the  
29 Military Department, and to the author for appropriate distribution.