

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 3, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 25, 2013

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 40

Introduced by Senator Hueso

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

(Coauthor: Assembly Member Quirk-Silva)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Quirk-Silva, Alejo, Allen, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Grove, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Mitchell, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nestande, Olsen, Patterson, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, and Yamada)

May 6, 2013

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

7 WHEREAS, On June 25, 1950, the ROK was attacked by the
8 armed forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
9 (DPRK); and

10 WHEREAS, On June 30, 1950, President Harry S. Truman
11 authorized elements of the United States Army's 24th Division
12 stationed in Japan to intervene in the invasion of the ROK, a move
13 that resulted in the near destruction of Task Force Smith, a
14 reinforced infantry battalion comprised of fewer than 500
15 personnel; and

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Units of the California National Guard were
2 activated for the conflict, including, on August 21, 1950, the 719th
3 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion, which was ordered into
4 active duty for service in Korea, with this recently racially
5 desegregated unit being followed on September 11, 1950, by the
6 1401st and 1402nd Engineer Combat Battalions, which were still
7 segregated; and

8 WHEREAS, The 719th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion
9 was returned to California state control from active federal military
10 service on April 14, 1952, and the 1401st and 1402nd Engineer
11 Combat Battalions were returned to state control from active
12 federal service on January 17, 1955, 18 months after the armistice,
13 as fully desegregated units; and

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

21 WHEREAS, On October 10, 1950, the California National
22 Guard's 196th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, along with two other
23 National Guard squadrons from Florida and Georgia, were
24 federalized and formed the 116th Fighter-Bomber Wing at George
25 Air Force Base, Victorville, California; and

26 WHEREAS, On October 14, 1950, three Chinese field armies
27 supported by aircraft from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
28 crossed the Yalu River and engaged the United Nations forces on
29 October 25, 1950; and

30 WHEREAS, On November 27, 1950, four Chinese field armies
31 attacked the 1st Marine and 7th Infantry Divisions at the Chosin
32 Reservoir, leading to a historic battle that resulted in the destruction
33 of 10 Chinese Infantry Divisions and the successful breakout and
34 withdrawal by sea of American forces that concluded on December
35 24, 1950; and

36 WHEREAS, On July 10, 1951, the 196th Fighter-Bomber
37 Squadron departed San Diego on the aircraft carrier USS Windham
38 Bay with its 18 F-84E "Thunderjet" fighter-bombers, arriving at
39 Yokosuka Naval Base on July 24, 1951; the squadron commenced
40 combat operations from Taegu Air Base, ROK, on December 28,

1 1951, and on June 10, 1952, the squadron stood down and was
2 relieved of its assignment, returning to California and reforming
3 at the Ontario Municipal Airport in January 1953; and

4 WHEREAS, On December 23, 1951, the 40th Infantry Division
5 received alert orders to move to Korea, where, in February 1951,
6 it relieved the 24th Infantry Division and subsequently participated
7 in the battles of Sandbag Castle, the Punchbowl, and Heartbreak
8 Ridge; the division suffered 376 soldiers killed in action and 1457
9 wounded, earning the ROK Presidential Unit Citation and three
10 individual Medals of Honor; and

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

15 WHEREAS, With a state of war still existing between the United
16 Nations and the DPRK, the California Army and Air National
17 Guard continue in the active defense of the ROK by participating
18 in Team Spirit exercises, which ensures tactical and logistical
19 interoperability between the respective Armed Forces of the United
20 States and the ROK in the event that major combat operations or
21 other emergencies occur in the future; now, therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature urges Californians to
24 observe the anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Day and
25 hereby proclaims July 27, 2013, as Korean War Armistice Day,
26 calling upon all Californians to observe this with appropriate
27 ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to our
28 distinguished Korean War veterans; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges Governor Jerry Brown to
30 proclaim July 27, 2013, as Korean War Armistice Day and instruct
31 all state departments, agencies, interest groups, organizations, and
32 individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-mast on July
33 27, 2013, in memory of the Californians who died as a result of
34 their service in Korea; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
36 this resolution to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to the
37 Military Department, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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