

Introduced by Senator Hueso

(Principal coauthor: Senator Knight)

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April 2, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 107—Relative to D-Day Remembrance Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 107, as introduced, Hueso. D-Day Invasion: 70th anniversary.

This measure would commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion by proclaiming June 6, 2014, as D-Day Remembrance Day and urging Governor Jerry Brown to instruct all state agencies to fly the flag of the United States and the flag of California at half-mast on that day, in recognition of the heroism and sacrifices of the participants in those landings.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Second World War, which lasted from 1939
2 to 1945, was the most widespread war in human history, directly
3 involving more than 100 million people from more than 30
4 different countries, which were split between two opposing military
5 alliances – the Allies, led by the United States of America and the
6 United Kingdom, and the Axis, led by Nazi Germany and the
7 Empire of Japan; and
8 WHEREAS, The Axis powers initiated military aggression and
9 maintained the strategic momentum until gradually slowed by
10 Allied resistance in late 1942 and 1943, after which the Allies
11 reversed the momentum and commenced operations to liberate
12 Axis-conquered lands, such operations including Operation

1 Overlord, a massive military and naval effort toward the
2 reclamation of German-occupied Western Europe; and

3 WHEREAS, The combat operations of Operation Overlord, also
4 known as the D-Day Landings, began on June 6, 1944, with an
5 Allied invasion from England into German-occupied Normandy
6 (France); and

7 WHEREAS, The landings were conducted in two phases: a
8 nighttime airborne assault by 24,000 United States, British, and
9 Canadian paratroopers and glider-borne soldiers shortly after
10 midnight, followed by an early-morning amphibious landing by
11 Allied infantry and armored divisions onto five beach sites on the
12 Normandy coast; and

13 WHEREAS, The Allies executed a complex series of deceptions,
14 helping them achieve strategic and tactical surprise over the
15 Germans, who had been led to believe that the main thrust of the
16 expected Allied invasion would involve different times, locations,
17 and methods than actually employed; and

18 WHEREAS, The Allied paratroopers landed to seize and then
19 hold key bridges and road junctions behind enemy lines against
20 the overwhelming German military force that surrounded them;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Despite the effectiveness of Allied deceptions in
23 achieving surprise and partially reducing the strength of German
24 coastal fortifications, the amphibious landings were made into the
25 teeth of a still-lethal, interlocking defense manned by skilled
26 German soldiers wielding state-of-the-art weaponry; and

27 WHEREAS, The resulting combat was among the bloodiest and
28 most pivotal of the entire global conflict, and the names of its battle
29 sites, such as Omaha Beach, Utah Beach, and the cliffs of Pointe
30 du Hoc, have been embedded into United States military history;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Despite the terrible cost in human life, the
33 ultimately successful execution of the D-Day invasion led directly
34 to the liberation of Western Europe, the fall of Adolf Hitler, and
35 the defeat of Nazi Germany during the subsequent 11 months; and

36 WHEREAS, The heroism of the warriors who fought on D-Day
37 has been depicted in numerous literary and cinematic classics,
38 including “The Longest Day,” “Saving Private Ryan,” and “Band
39 of Brothers”; and

1 WHEREAS, June 6, 2014, represents the 70th anniversary of
2 the D-Day Landings, and serves as a direct reminder of the
3 extraordinary sacrifices made by members of the United States
4 Armed Forces on D-Day, and also, indirectly, to the sacrifices
5 made during the rest of the Second World War and in all other
6 armed conflicts past, present, and future; and

7 WHEREAS, It is fitting and appropriate that the State of
8 California and its residents recognize this anniversary to honor the
9 courageous individuals who heeded our nation's call and risked
10 their lives, health, and dreams to defend our liberty and national
11 interests; now, therefore; be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
13 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature urges Californians to
14 observe the anniversary of the D-Day Landings and hereby
15 proclaims June 6, 2014, as D-Day Remembrance Day, calling upon
16 all Californians to observe this with appropriate ceremonies and
17 activities that honor and give thanks to our distinguished veterans
18 who survived that military operation; and be it further

19 *Resolved,* That the Legislature urges Governor Jerry Brown to
20 proclaim June 6, 2014, as D-Day Remembrance Day and instruct
21 all state departments, agencies, interest groups, organizations, and
22 individuals to fly the flag of the United States and the flag of
23 California at half-mast on June 6, 2014, in memory of the
24 Californians who perished on D-Day; and be it further

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

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