

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 13, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 36

Introduced by Assembly Member Gray

February 27, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 36—Relative to the ~~Honor and Remember Flag~~. *California Association of County Veterans Service Officers.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 36, as amended, Gray. ~~The Honor and Remember Flag.~~ *California Association of County Veterans Service Officers.*

This measure would recognize the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers for helping veterans secure their federal and state benefits over the past 70 years.

~~This measure would designate the Honor and Remember Flag as the state’s emblem of service, and encourage the display of that flag at all state military memorials, state veteran cemeteries, and certain other public displays.~~

Fiscal committee: ~~yes~~-no.

- 1 *WHEREAS, Some California counties established County*
- 2 *Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs) after World War I to assist*
- 3 *California’s veterans to obtain their hard-earned entitlement; and*
- 4 *WHEREAS, San Bernardino established the first CVSO office*
- 5 *in California in 1926, and at least 10 other counties with large*
- 6 *veteran populations also established CVSO offices between World*
- 7 *War I and World War II; and*

1 *WHEREAS, At the end of World War II, most California counties*
2 *recognized the need to help their returning veterans to obtain*
3 *federal benefits, and quickly established CVSO offices in their*
4 *counties; and*

5 *WHEREAS, In 1945, with the end of World War II and the return*
6 *of thousands of veterans to California, the California Association*
7 *of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) was formed; and*

8 *WHEREAS, The CACVSO was created to assist returning*
9 *veterans in accessing their earned entitlements as authorized by*
10 *Congress, such as the GI Bill for education and the veteran home*
11 *loan program, as well as compensation and pension benefits for*
12 *wounded veterans and their families; and*

13 *WHEREAS, The CACVSO promotes state and federal legislation*
14 *and policy supportive of veterans' rights and issues, in harmony*
15 *with our national obligation to veterans of the United States Armed*
16 *Forces; and*

17 *WHEREAS, The CACVSO provides a medium for the exchange*
18 *of ideas, information, training, and support to facilitate delivery*
19 *of services to nearly two million California veterans; and*

20 *WHEREAS, The CACVSO recognizes the importance and merit*
21 *of the congressionally chartered veterans service organizations,*
22 *and is committed to fostering a mutually beneficial relationship*
23 *with them for the common good of all veterans, since it is the intent*
24 *of all these organizations that every veteran residing in California*
25 *receives the benefits and services to which they are entitled by law*
26 *and moral obligation; and*

27 *WHEREAS, The CACVSO is an organization of professional*
28 *veterans advocates whose purpose is to mutually promote the*
29 *professionalism of all CVSOs; and*

30 *WHEREAS, Through CVSOs, the CACVSO is committed to*
31 *California counties to provide a vital and efficient system of*
32 *services and advocacy for veterans, their dependents, and their*
33 *survivors; and*

34 *WHEREAS, The State of California has adopted and is currently*
35 *using the CVSO model that is used in 27 other states as the primary*
36 *method of delivering services to veterans; and*

37 *WHEREAS, In California, a CVSO plays a critical role in the*
38 *veterans advocacy system and is often the initial contact in the*
39 *community for veterans services; and*

1 *WHEREAS, The CVSOs and the California Department of*
2 *Veterans Affairs work closely together to assist California's*
3 *veterans in obtaining federal and state veterans benefits, with*
4 *CVSOs serving as the "boots on the ground" for the department;*
5 *and*

6 *WHEREAS, CVSOs are primarily funded by the counties, and*
7 *receive some state funding; and*

8 *WHEREAS, Since 1995, CVSOs have assisted veterans in*
9 *qualifying for and receiving \$4.6 billion in federal benefits, which*
10 *are sent directly to veterans and ultimately spent in the local*
11 *economy; and*

12 *WHEREAS, In the 2013–14 fiscal year, CVSOs assisted*
13 *California's veterans in filing claims with the federal government*
14 *that resulted in payments of more than \$545 million, an increase*
15 *of over 23 percent from the \$445 million that the CVSOs helped*
16 *veterans claim during the previous fiscal year, which is attributable*
17 *to increased state funding, from \$2.6 million in 2013 to \$5.6 million*
18 *in 2014, which allowed CVSO offices to increase outreach activities*
19 *and hire additional staff to assist veterans in the claims process;*
20 *and*

21 *WHEREAS, CVSOs are responsible for planning and*
22 *administering a countywide program, so they must be*
23 *knowledgeable about all entitlements, programs, and ancillary*
24 *services as administered by the United States Department of*
25 *Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the California*
26 *Department of Veterans Affairs, and other federal, state, and local*
27 *agencies; and*

28 *WHEREAS, The CACVSO has raised the professionalism of all*
29 *CVSOs through training and working to improve the federal claims*
30 *process with the California Department of Veterans Affairs, the*
31 *United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and congressionally*
32 *chartered veterans service organizations; and*

33 *WHEREAS, The CACVSO promotes the welfare and rights of*
34 *veterans statewide through legislative advocacy, provides training*
35 *and education to CVSOs and their employees, promotes the mission*
36 *of CVSOs throughout the state, and provides members of the*
37 *CACVSO with a collaborative network of resources, information,*
38 *and ideas; now, therefore, be it*

39 *RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF*
40 *CALIFORNIA, THE SENATE THEREOF CONCURRING, That*

1 *the Legislature commends the California Association of County*
2 *Veterans Service Officers for 70 years of service to California's*
3 *veterans and their families through the advancement of*
4 *professionalism within its ranks and the pursuit of advocacy across*
5 *all levels of government so that veterans may receive the benefits*
6 *to which they are entitled by virtue of their military service to our*
7 *country; and be it further*

8 *RESOLVED, That the CACVSO has maintained and nurtured*
9 *the high professional standards of California's CVSOs so that*
10 *these veterans advocates can fulfill the CACVSO's slogan of*
11 *"Serving Those Who Served"; and be it further*

12 *RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit*
13 *copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*

14 ~~WHEREAS, Since the Revolutionary War, more than one~~
15 ~~million members of the United States Armed Forces have paid the~~
16 ~~ultimate price by sacrificing their lives in the line of duty; and~~

17 ~~WHEREAS, The contribution of those fallen members of the~~
18 ~~United States Armed Forces are deserving of national recognition;~~
19 ~~and~~

20 ~~WHEREAS, There is no officially recognized symbol that~~
21 ~~specifically acknowledges members of the United States Armed~~
22 ~~Forces who have died in the line of duty; and~~

23 ~~WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 1034 of the 111th Congress~~
24 ~~designates the Honor and Remember Flag, created by Honor and~~
25 ~~Remember, Inc., to officially recognize and honor fallen members~~
26 ~~of the United States Armed Forces; and~~

27 ~~WHEREAS, The Honor and Remember Flag's red field~~
28 ~~represents the blood shed by brave men and women who sacrificed~~
29 ~~their lives for freedom; and~~

30 ~~WHEREAS, The Honor and Remember Flag's blue star is a~~
31 ~~symbol of active service in military conflict that dates back to~~
32 ~~World War I; and~~

33 ~~WHEREAS, The Honor and Remember Flag's white border~~
34 ~~recognizes the purity of sacrifice; and~~

35 ~~WHEREAS, The Honor and Remember Flag's gold star signifies~~
36 ~~the ultimate sacrifice of a warrior in active service who is not~~
37 ~~returning home and reflects the value of the life given; and~~

38 ~~WHEREAS, The Honor and Remember Flag's folded flag~~
39 ~~element highlights this nation's final tribute to a fallen~~
40 ~~serviceperson and a family's sacrifice; and~~

1 WHEREAS, The Honor and Remember Flag's flame symbolizes
2 the eternal spirit of the departed; and

3 WHEREAS, It benefits the State of California to answer calls
4 for a unifying symbol recognizing this nation's solemn debt to the
5 estimated 1.6 million fallen servicepersons throughout history and
6 the families and communities who mourned their loss; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
9 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature designates the Honor and
10 Remember Flag as the state's emblem of service and sacrifice by
11 the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who
12 have given their lives in the line of duty; and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages the display of the
14 Honor and Remember Flag at all state military memorials and state
15 veteran cemeteries, as well as public displays on Armed Forces
16 Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July, National POW/MIA
17 Recognition Day, Veterans Day, Gold Star Mother's Day, and
18 whenever there is a state military casualty; and be it further

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