

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 43**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member O'Donnell**

March 9, 2015

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 43—Relative to California Aerospace Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 43, as introduced, O'Donnell. California Aerospace Week.

This measure would recognize the contributions of the aerospace industry to the history, economy, security, and educational system of California, its communities, and its citizens by proclaiming the week of March 23, 2015, through March 27, 2015, as California Aerospace Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The California aerospace industry is a powerful,  
2 reliable source of employment, innovation, and export income,  
3 directly employing more than 200,000 people in California and  
4 supporting more than 307,000 jobs in related fields; and

5 WHEREAS, The California aerospace industry leads the United  
6 States in aerospace and defense services, including the design and  
7 manufacture of aircraft, spacecraft, and commercial satellites, as  
8 well as a myriad of systems and instruments for search, detection,  
9 navigation, guidance, and radio and television broadcast and  
10 wireless communication systems; and

11 WHEREAS, California is home to many superb sites of air and  
12 space activity, including Vandenberg Air Force Base, two Federal  
13 Aviation Administration-licensed launch sites, the Mojave Air and

1 Spaceport, more than 20 astronomical observatories, multiple  
2 international airports, many important defense aerospace bases,  
3 and hundreds of business and general aviation airfields; and

4 WHEREAS, California is also home to three National  
5 Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) research and  
6 engineering centers. These centers are recognized as the Ames  
7 Research Center, the NASA Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research  
8 Center, formerly known as the Dryden Flight Research Center,  
9 and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL); and

10 WHEREAS, California has led the nation in aeronautical firsts  
11 and California's aerospace industry produced many of the  
12 significant and record-breaking aircraft that are now represented  
13 in The Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.  
14 The Spirit of St. Louis, which in 1927 made the first solo nonstop  
15 transatlantic flight from New York to Paris, was designed and built  
16 in California by Ryan Airlines and made Charles Lindbergh an  
17 international hero. The Douglas DC-3, recognized as the most  
18 successful airliner in history, dominating both commercial and  
19 military air transportation from its introduction in 1935 until after  
20 World War II, was designed and built in California by the Douglas  
21 Aircraft Company. The Space Shuttle was designed, built,  
22 assembled, and tested in California. California is home to Edwards  
23 Air Force Base, the site of five test flights of the Shuttle Enterprise,  
24 the landing site of 54 Space Shuttle missions, and the site of the  
25 199 X-15 missions; and

26 WHEREAS, Edwards Air Force Base, known for its notable  
27 aeronautical achievements, was the location of many first flights  
28 of American aircraft, shuttles, and experimental jets flown from  
29 Rogers Dry Lake in the Mojave Desert of Kern County. America's  
30 first jet, XP-59A, was first flown in California. General Charles  
31 "Chuck" Yeager made world history in California on October 14,  
32 1947, when he became the first man to fly Mach 1, faster than the  
33 speed of sound, while piloting the Bell X-1 rocket plane. The rocket  
34 powered X-15, flown by former State Senator William J. "Pete"  
35 Knight, attained a speed of Mach 6.7 (4,520 miles per hour), a  
36 speed that remains, to this day, the highest ever attained in a  
37 manned aircraft. The Rutan Model 76 Voyager was the first aircraft  
38 to fly around the world without stopping or refueling; and

39 WHEREAS, California has led the nation in firsts in human  
40 space exploration, including the manufacture of the Apollo 11

1 command module that carried the first humans to the surface of  
2 our moon; the manufacture and landing of the Space Shuttle  
3 orbiters, the first reusable space vehicles, which include the  
4 Endeavour, on display at the California Science Center; and the  
5 manufacture and recovery of the SpaceX Dragon capsule and  
6 Falcon launch vehicle, the first privately funded space exploration  
7 system; and

8 WHEREAS, California has led the nation in firsts in robotic  
9 space exploration, including the Explorer 1 Earth observation  
10 satellite as America’s first successful spacecraft, the Mariner 2 as  
11 the first spacecraft to explore another planet, the Viking landers  
12 as the first spacecrafts to perform experiments on another planet,  
13 and the development of the Pioneer 10 spacecraft as the first to  
14 exit our solar system; and

15 WHEREAS, Californians, through NASA and JPL, build,  
16 manage, and operate the majority of the spacecraft exploring our  
17 solar system, including the most recent Mars Science Laboratory  
18 “Curiosity,” and those spacecraft exploring other solar systems,  
19 like the Kepler exoplanet discovery mission, as well as the SOFIA,  
20 the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, that  
21 administers the Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors program for  
22 educators who have inspired the dreams of California youth; and

23 WHEREAS, California aerospace industries build the impressive  
24 Northrop Grumman Global Hawk Unmanned Aircraft Systems,  
25 engineer radical new aircraft at the famous Lockheed Martin  
26 “Skunk Works” Advanced Development Programs facility, and  
27 create systems that assist and protect members of the United States  
28 Armed Forces through military communications, situational  
29 awareness, satellite-guided ordnance, and technologies yet to be  
30 dreamed of; and

31 WHEREAS, California will continue to lead in aerospace  
32 education, through its superb Science, Technology, Engineering  
33 and Mathematics (STEM) education programs and at its  
34 world-class research universities, and thus will continue to lead  
35 the world with the innovation that enabled advanced meteorological  
36 forecasting, the Global Positioning System, NextGen tools for air  
37 traffic management, green aviation, sophisticated wind tunnels  
38 and test facilities, and advanced supercomputing and robotics; and

39 WHEREAS, The American Institute of Aeronautics and  
40 Astronautics (AIAA), in conjunction with the Aerospace States

1 Association (ASA), California Chapter, is sponsoring events to  
2 highlight the contributions of the aerospace community to  
3 California, including panel discussions and educational displays  
4 during March 2015; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
6 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the  
7 contributions of the aerospace industry to the history, economy,  
8 security, and educational system of California, its communities,  
9 and its citizens by proclaiming the week of March 23, 2015,  
10 through March 27, 2015, as California Aerospace Week; and be  
11 it further

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