

**House Resolution**

**No. 30**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Eggman, Cristina Garcia, and  
Irwin)**

August 27, 2015

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House Resolution No. 30—Relative to the first female graduates of the United States Army Ranger School.

1 WHEREAS, Women have proudly served in the Armed Forces  
2 of the United States (Armed Forces) throughout our nation's  
3 history; and

4 WHEREAS, Over the past century, women have been gradually  
5 authorized to serve in more advanced roles in the Armed Forces,  
6 and, with each milestone, from the 1901 inception of the U.S.  
7 Army Nurse Corps, to the passage of the Women's Armed Services  
8 Integration Act of 1948, making women a permanent part of the  
9 military, and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
10 Years 1992 and 1993, repealing laws preventing women from  
11 flying combat aircrafts, female soldiers have demonstrated their  
12 bravery, their dedication, and their patriotism; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite women's advancement in the military,  
14 women have been banned from front-line combat positions, and  
15 yet, in the past decade of conflict, the distinction between  
16 noncombat and combat roles has blurred, as over 300,000 women  
17 have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, where  
18 152 women in uniform have been killed, including 84 who were  
19 in hostile action, and approximately 1,000 have been wounded;  
20 and

1 WHEREAS, In recognition of the changing reality of the modern  
2 battle field as well as the exemplary performance of female  
3 soldiers, in 2013, the Pentagon lifted the ban on women in combat  
4 and gave military leaders until the end of 2015 to recommend  
5 which jobs should remain male only; and

6 WHEREAS, As a result, the Army opened up its elite Ranger  
7 School, the Army's premier combat leadership course, to female  
8 soldiers for the first time this year as a pilot program; and

9 WHEREAS, 19 female and 380 male soldiers began the course,  
10 and included within this group were Captain Kristen Griest, a  
11 military police platoon leader who has served one tour of duty in  
12 Afghanistan, and First Lieutenant Shaye Haver, an Apache  
13 helicopter pilot, both graduates of the United States Military  
14 Academy at West Point; and

15 WHEREAS, The grueling Ranger School identifies and trains  
16 one of our nation's elite combat forces, focusing on military skills,  
17 endurance, and survival techniques, and exposing candidates to  
18 extreme mental and physical stress; and

19 WHEREAS, Although, for the first time, both male and female  
20 soldiers were part of the Ranger School class, the same standards  
21 for successful completion of the Ranger School were required of  
22 all soldiers, regardless of gender; and

23 WHEREAS, Captain Griest and First Lieutenant Haver  
24 successfully completed the Ranger course with 94 other Ranger  
25 candidates; and

26 WHEREAS, On August 21, 2015, Captain Griest and First  
27 Lieutenant Haver became the first two female soldiers to graduate  
28 from the Ranger School paving the way for future generations of  
29 Army Rangers, and our nation's other elite combat forces, to finally  
30 be selected from the ranks of all top soldiers, regardless of gender;  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Despite this barrier-breaking accomplishment of  
33 Captain Griest and First Lieutenant Haver, these trailblazers,  
34 because they are female, are not yet permitted to join Army Ranger  
35 battalions, or to serve in the infantry or any other special operations  
36 post, yet both have expressed their desire that the Army end this  
37 policy; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
39 Assembly urges the Pentagon to allow Captain Griest, First  
40 Lieutenant Haver, and any other qualified female soldier to serve

1 in the Army Rangers and other combat units of the armed services;  
2 and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Assembly recognizes and honors the  
4 patriotism, dedication, and perseverance of Captain Griest and  
5 First Lieutenant Haver and the historic importance of their  
6 achievement to the advancement of women in the Armed Forces;

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

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