

House Resolution

No. 30

Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Eggman, Cristina Garcia, ~~and Irwin~~ Irwin, Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gordon, Grove, Hadley, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

August 27, 2015

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

1 flying combat aircrafts, female soldiers have demonstrated their
2 bravery, their dedication, and their patriotism; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite women's advancement in the military,
4 women have been banned from front-line combat positions, and
5 yet, in the past decade of conflict, the distinction between
6 noncombat and combat roles has blurred, as over 300,000 women
7 have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, where
8 152 women in uniform have been killed, including 84 who were
9 in hostile action, and approximately 1,000 have been wounded;
10 and

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, Although, for the first time, both male and female
30 soldiers were part of the Ranger School class, the same standards
31 for successful completion of the Ranger School were required of
32 all soldiers, regardless of gender; and

33 WHEREAS, Captain Griest and First Lieutenant Haver
34 successfully completed the Ranger course with 94 other Ranger
35 candidates; and

36 WHEREAS, On August 21, 2015, Captain Griest and First
37 Lieutenant Haver became the first two female soldiers to graduate
38 from the Ranger School paving the way for future generations of
39 Army Rangers, and our nation's other elite combat forces, to finally

1 be selected from the ranks of all top soldiers, regardless of gender;
2 and

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

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
10 Assembly urges the Pentagon to allow Captain Griest, First
11 Lieutenant Haver, and any other qualified female soldier to serve
12 in the Army Rangers and other combat units of the armed services;
13 and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Assembly recognizes and honors the
15 patriotism, dedication, and perseverance of Captain Griest and
16 First Lieutenant Haver and the historic importance of their
17 achievement to the advancement of women in the Armed Forces;

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