

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 95

Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis

July 2, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 95—Relative to the American Flag.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 95, as introduced, Mathis. American Flag.

This measure would declare that the American flag is an inseparable part of California's rich history, tradition, and culture, that it represents the values of freedom and liberty, and would call upon the state and local governments to prohibit any government entity in the state from banning the American flag from public property.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On June 14th, 1777, in the midst of the American
2 Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution
3 stating that “the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate
4 stripes red and white” and that “the Union be thirteen stars, white
5 in a blue field, representing a new Constellation”; and
6 WHEREAS, On September 14th, 1814, American soldiers under
7 siege at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland raised a huge
8 American flag to celebrate a crucial victory over British forces
9 during the War of 1812, inspiring Francis Scott Key to write a
10 poem that eventually became the words of the United States
11 National Anthem; and
12 WHEREAS, On June 6th, 1944, more than 160,000 American
13 and Allied troops carrying the “Stars and Stripes” landed along a

1 50-mile stretch of heavily fortified French coastline in Normandy
2 to liberate Europe from the forces of Nazi Germany. More than
3 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded on D-Day to free
4 Europe from fascist occupation; and

5 WHEREAS, On February 23rd, 1945, five Marines and a Navy
6 Corpsman raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi during
7 the Battle of Iwo Jima. It was a hard-fought victory over
8 imperialism at the cost of 5,900 United States service members
9 killed and 17,400 wounded against 23,000 Japanese army and
10 naval forces fighting from an entrenched network of caves, dugouts,
11 tunnels and underground installations; and

12 WHEREAS, On September 11th, 2001, in the aftermath of the
13 terrorist attack which destroyed the World Trade Center, three
14 New York City firefighters, George Johnson of Rockaway Beach,
15 Ladder 157, Dan McWilliams of Long Island, Ladder 157, and
16 Billy Eisengrein of Staten Island, Rescue 2, raised the American
17 flag over the smoldering ruins of Ground Zero where the Twin
18 Towers once stood. It was an act of defiance against those who
19 sought to break the unconquerable values of freedom and liberty
20 which the American flag represents; now, therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
22 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares that the American
23 flag is an inseparable part of California's rich history, tradition,
24 and culture; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Legislature declares that the American flag
26 represents the values of freedom and liberty; and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the state and local
28 governments to prohibit any government entity in the state from
29 banning the American flag from public property, including, but
30 not limited to, public schools, public colleges, public universities,
31 state beaches, public parks, public monuments, museums, and
32 government offices; and be it further

33 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
34 of the resolution to the author for appropriate distribution