

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 108**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis**

January 4, 2016

---

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 108—Relative to Women’s Military History Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 108, as introduced, Mathis. Women’s Military History Week.

This measure would recognize “Women Warriors” by proclaiming the week of March 21 to March 27, 2016, inclusive, as Women’s Military History Week in California and would encourage Californians to recognize, among other things, the contributions of women to our military and our freedom and the historic lift of the ban on women in combat on January 24, 2013.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, January 24, 2016, marks the third anniversary of  
2 the lift of the ban on women in combat; and

3 WHEREAS, This groundbreaking decision overturns a 1994  
4 Pentagon rule that restricted women from artillery, armor, and  
5 infantry, among other combat roles, even though in reality women  
6 have frequently found themselves in combat in Iraq and  
7 Afghanistan. According to the Pentagon, hundreds of thousands  
8 of women have been deployed in those conflicts; and

9 WHEREAS, Former United States Secretary of Defense Leon  
10 Panetta initiated the lift of the ban on women in combat in 2013.  
11 On December 3, 2015, current United States Secretary of Defense

1 Ashton Carter directed the full integration of women into all  
2 military branches; and

3 WHEREAS, Over the past two decades of conflict, women have  
4 served with valor in combat zones, often under fire, but had been  
5 prevented from officially holding combat positions under the 1994  
6 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule, which  
7 generally barred women from assignment to units below brigade  
8 level when the unit's primary mission was direct ground combat;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 300,000 women in uniform have  
11 served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Female service  
12 members have earned more than 10,000 combat action badges and  
13 Bronze Stars, respectively, and at least 12 Bronze Stars with Valor.  
14 Women have served in intelligence gathering, as combat pilots,  
15 field artillery officers, chaplains, special operations civil affairs  
16 officers, and even members of the ultra-secretive Delta Force; and

17 WHEREAS, Women have served bravely in every major United  
18 States conflict since the American Revolutionary War. Our current  
19 servicewomen are able to serve due to the incredible work of  
20 women of past generations; and

21 WHEREAS, As stated by then-Secretary of Defense Panetta,  
22 "Women have shown great courage and sacrifice on and off the  
23 battlefield, contributed in unprecedented ways to the military's  
24 mission, and proven their ability to serve in an expanding number  
25 of roles." Panetta added, "[R]escinding the [1994 ban on women  
26 in combat] is to ensure that the mission is met with the best  
27 qualified and most capable people, regardless of gender;" and

28 WHEREAS, Since the lift of the ban, three women have already  
29 made history by being the first to graduate from the United States  
30 Army Ranger School, the Army's premier combat leadership  
31 course, proving to themselves and to the world that women can  
32 meet men's standard for combat; and

33 WHEREAS, As a country based on freedom and opportunity,  
34 regardless of creed, race, gender, or sexual orientation, we must  
35 demonstrate the same opportunity in our armed forces, while  
36 maintaining the same standard of excellence our military has set;  
37 and

38 WHEREAS, Our military exists to fight our nation's wars and  
39 to defend our Constitution and our freedom. Opening up combat

1 roles to women will add to military excellence, not subtract from  
2 it; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes  
5 “Women Warriors” by proclaiming the week of March 21, 2016,  
6 through March 27, 2016, inclusive, as Women’s Military History  
7 Week in California; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages Californians to  
9 recognize the contributions of women to our military and our  
10 freedom, the courageous sacrifice that women have made while  
11 serving our country with heroism, and the historic lift of the ban  
12 on women in combat on January 24, 2013; and be it further

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