

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 19, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 108

Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis

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

January 4, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 108, as amended, 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
12 Ashton Carter directed the full integration of women into all
13 military branches; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the past two decades of conflict, women have
15 served with valor in combat zones, often under fire, but had been
16 prevented from officially holding combat positions under the 1994
17 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule, which
18 generally barred women from assignment to units below brigade
19 level when the unit's primary mission was direct ground combat;
20 and

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

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

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

39 WHEREAS, Since the lift of the ban, three women have already
40 made history by being the first to graduate from the United States

1 Army Ranger School, the Army's premier combat leadership
2 course, proving to themselves and to the world that women can
3 meet men's standard for combat; and

4 WHEREAS, As a country based on freedom and opportunity,
5 regardless of creed, race, gender, or sexual orientation, we must
6 demonstrate the same opportunity in our armed forces, while
7 maintaining the same standard of excellence our military has set;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Our military exists to fight our nation's wars and
10 to defend our Constitution and our freedom. Opening up combat
11 roles to women will add to military excellence, not subtract from
12 it; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes
15 "Women Warriors" by proclaiming the week of March 21, 2016,
16 through March 27, 2016, inclusive, as Women's Military History
17 Week in California; and be it further

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

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