

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 23, 2016  
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)**

*(Coauthors: Senators Bates, Block, Liu, Vidak, and Wieckowski)*

January 4, 2016

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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-24 14, 2016, to March-27, 20, 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~~ *lifting* 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~~ *lifting* 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~~ *lifting* of the ban on women in combat in  
11 2013. On December 3, 2015, current United States Secretary of  
12 Defense Ashton Carter directed the full integration of women into  
13 all 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

1 in combat] is to ensure that the mission is met with the best  
2 qualified and most capable people, regardless of ~~gender~~,” *gender*”;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Since the ~~lift~~ *lifting* of the ban, three women have  
5 already made history by being the first to graduate from the United  
6 States Army Ranger School, the Army’s premier combat leadership  
7 course, proving to themselves and to the world that women can  
8 meet men’s standard for combat; and

9 WHEREAS, As a country based on freedom and opportunity,  
10 regardless of creed, race, gender, or sexual orientation, we must  
11 demonstrate the same opportunity in our armed forces, while  
12 maintaining the same standard of excellence our military has set;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Our military exists to fight our nation’s wars and  
15 to defend our Constitution and our freedom. Opening up combat  
16 roles to women will add to military excellence, not subtract from  
17 it; now, therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes  
20 “Women Warriors” by proclaiming the week of March ~~21, 14,~~  
21 2016, ~~through to March 27, 20,~~ 2016, inclusive, as Women’s  
22 Military History Week in California; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages Californians to  
24 recognize the contributions of women to our military and our  
25 freedom, the courageous ~~sacrifice~~ *sacrifices* that women have made  
26 while serving our country with heroism, and the historic ~~lift~~ *lifting*  
27 of the ban on women in combat on January 24, 2013; and be it  
28 further

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