

**Introduced by Senator Nielsen**

April 29, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 50—Relative to World War II Remembrance Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 50, as introduced, Nielsen. World War II Remembrance Month.

This measure would urge the Governor to proclaim the month of June 2015 as World War II Remembrance Month, and call upon all Californians to observe the 70th anniversary of the end of the war.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Second World War, which lasted from 1939  
2 to 1945, was the most widespread war in human history, directly  
3 involving more than 100 million people from more than 30  
4 different countries, which were split between two opposing military  
5 alliances—the Allies, led by the United States of America and the  
6 United Kingdom, and the Axis, led by Nazi Germany and the  
7 Empire of Japan; and

8 WHEREAS, The Axis powers initiated military aggression and  
9 maintained the strategic momentum until gradually slowed by  
10 Allied resistance in late 1942 and 1943, after which the Allies  
11 reversed the momentum and commenced operations to liberate  
12 Axis-conquered lands; and

13 WHEREAS, On December 11, 1941, four days after the  
14 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Germany and Italy declared war  
15 on the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, On June 4, 1942, the United States won a decisive  
17 naval victory over Japan in the Battle of Midway, generally

1 recognized as the event that began shifting the momentum of the  
2 Pacific Campaign in favor of the Allies; and

3 WHEREAS, On November 8, 1942, United States and Allied  
4 forces commenced Operation Torch, the campaign to expel the  
5 German forces from Axis-occupied North Africa; and

6 WHEREAS, Between August 1942 and February 1943, Allied  
7 forces invaded the Japanese-held island of Guadalcanal, beginning  
8 the celebrated Allied island-hopping campaign that forced the  
9 Japanese from various other Pacific island chains that the Japanese  
10 had earlier seized; and

11 WHEREAS, German and other Axis forces in North Africa  
12 surrendered on May 13, 1943, leading to the successful landing in  
13 Sicily by United States and Allied forces in July 1943; and

14 WHEREAS, On September 8, 1943, Axis member Italy  
15 surrendered to United States and Allied forces; and

16 WHEREAS, More than 150,000 Allied soldiers landed in France  
17 on June 6, 1944, known thereafter as “D-Day”; and

18 WHEREAS, On August 25, 1944, Allied forces liberated Paris;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, From mid to late December 1944, during the Battle  
21 of the Bulge, United States troops heroically resisted a massive  
22 German counteroffensive in Belgium and France; and

23 WHEREAS, Fighting continued throughout the Pacific in 1944  
24 and early 1945, including major but costly American victories at  
25 Leyte, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa; and

26 WHEREAS, Germany surrendered unconditionally to the  
27 Western Allies at Reims on May 7, 1945, and to the Soviet Union  
28 on May 9, 1945, in Berlin; and

29 WHEREAS, President of the United States Harry S. Truman  
30 declared May 8, 1945, “V-E Day,” marking the end of World War  
31 II in Europe, although the war with Japan continued until August  
32 14, 1945; and

33 WHEREAS, During World War II, an estimated 292,000  
34 members of the United States Armed Forces were killed in action  
35 and more than 400,000 members of the United States Armed Forces  
36 died; now, therefore, be it

37 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
38 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature calls upon all Californians  
39 to observe the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World  
40 War, and urges them to observe the anniversary with appropriate

1 ceremonies and activities that honor and give thanks to the  
2 Californians and other Americans who fought in the war, both  
3 those who survived its horrific rigors and those who fell in the  
4 service of freedom; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges the Governor to proclaim  
6 the month of June 2015 as World War II Remembrance Month;  
7 and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
9 this resolution to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Military  
10 Department, the California State Military Museum, and to the  
11 author for appropriate distribution.

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