

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 13, 1995

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 11, 1995

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1995–96 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 29

Introduced by Assembly Members Machado, Aguiar, Alby, Allen, Alpert, Archie-Hudson, Baca, Baldwin, Bates, Battin, Boland, Bordonaro, Bowen, Bowler, Brewer, Valerie Brown, Willie Brown, Burton, Campbell, Cannella, Conroy, Cortese, Cunneen, Davis, Ducheny, Firestone, Friedman, Frusetta, Goldsmith, Granlund, Hannigan, Harvey, Hauser, Hawkins, Horcher, House, Isenberg, Kaloogian, Katz, Knight, Knox, Kuehl, Kuykendall, Lee, Martinez, Mazzone, McDonald, McPherson, Morrissey, Morrow, Willard Murray, Napolitano, Olberg, Poochigian, Rainey, Richter, Rogan, Setencich, Sher, Sweeney, Thompson, Vasconcellos, Weggeland, and Woods
(Principal coauthor: Senator Costa)

April 17, 1995

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 29—Relative to commemorating the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 29, as amended, Machado. 50th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II.

This measure would urge all citizens to join in the celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of the

conclusion of World War II, and in honoring those who have served and continue to serve their country in the United States Armed Forces.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, More than a half century has passed since
2 the tragic events of World War II transpired leaving some
3 45 million people dead, including almost 300,000 United
4 States service men and women who died in battle. Well
5 before it ended, World War II (1939–45) was recognized
6 as the single event that affected more people’s lives than
7 any other in human history. For millions of people, World
8 War II was the greatest catastrophe in history; and

9 WHEREAS, Fifty years ago in 1945, World War II
10 would finally draw to an end after six years and a day of
11 heinous crimes and atrocities committed against
12 mankind. The events of that war changed everyone’s
13 lives and ultimately changed the political order of the
14 world; and

15 WHEREAS, At home in America, anxieties of fear and
16 hunger that plagued much of the world were comparably
17 absent. During the six years of the war, no elections were
18 held in Europe, Asia, Africa, or the Middle East. In the
19 United States, on the other hand, during the same six
20 years, there were two presidential, three congressional,
21 and hundreds of state elections, all of them hotly
22 contested; and

23 WHEREAS, World War II transformed the world, and
24 America, too. It was a unique time. The half decade of
25 1940–45 did more to shake America out of its past and to
26 shape its future than any comparable period except the
27 United States Civil War; and

28 WHEREAS, Within the United States during the
29 period from 1941 to 1945, more than 15 million civilians
30 moved, more than half of them to new states, a full 17
31 percent of the population despite the fact that America
32 was at war, making this a mass migration that dwarfed
33 even the westward movement of the 19th century; and



1 WHEREAS, Most of those who moved were between
2 18 and 35 years of age, which means that nearly everyone
3 of that age group moved at least once; and

4 WHEREAS, This had a tremendous broadening effect
5 on American politics and culture because the internal
6 migration helped break down regional prejudices and
7 provincialism; and

8 WHEREAS, The generation that fought the war
9 reinvented America after it was won. Whether it was in
10 the armed services, or in munitions plants, or other
11 war-related industries, young Americans learned to work
12 together as a team, and as college students on the G.I. Bill
13 of Rights, young Americans learned important skills, and
14 in the late 1940s and through the 1950s, they built a new
15 America with—superhighways, suburbs, skyscrapers,
16 station wagons, semiconductors, and a sky full of
17 commercial airplanes; and

18 WHEREAS, The war dramatically changed political
19 attitudes. Initially in the 1930s most Americans were
20 isolationists, neutrality and disarmament were the
21 dominant policies, and it was believed that those policies
22 would keep America out of the next war; and

23 WHEREAS, The United States Selective Service Act,
24 that had been law for one year in 1940, was continued in
25 1941 by a margin of one vote in the House of
26 Representatives, less than four months before the attack
27 on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and

28 WHEREAS, In the 1940s, isolationism was proven
29 wrong and it came to be recognized that the way to
30 prevent future wars was through collective security and
31 military preparedness; and

32 WHEREAS, The role of women, especially young
33 women, changed just as dramatically, they entered the
34 work force in record numbers, something that is so
35 well-known that one need only mention “Rosie the
36 Riveter” to make the point; and

37 WHEREAS, For African-Americans and
38 Japanese-Americans, it was a terrible war; and

39 WHEREAS, The armed services, the National Capital,
40 and the former Confederate States all maintained a strict



1 segregation that was degrading to ~~Blacks~~
2 *African-Americans* and United States born
3 Japanese-American citizens (Nisei); and

4 WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 9066 was issued on
5 February 19, 1942, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
6 that had the effect of uprooting over 120,000 persons of
7 Japanese ancestry from their homes and businesses to be
8 held in detention camps, and approximately 80,000 of
9 these persons were United States citizens; and

10 WHEREAS, While their parents, brothers and sisters,
11 and aunts and uncles, were denied their freedom, the
12 most decorated unit ever in United States history was the
13 442nd Regimental Command Team, whose motto was
14 “Go For Broke,” and consisted of all Japanese-American
15 volunteers; and

16 WHEREAS, Some 46 years later, President Ronald
17 Reagan signed into law H.R. 442, generally known as the
18 Civil Liberties Act, that formally acknowledged the
19 injustice of the relocation and interment of those persons
20 of Japanese ancestry; and

21 WHEREAS, More than 7.5 million Europeans were
22 pressed into forced labor for the German Third Reich and
23 approximately 2 million prisoners of war were also forced
24 to work in the Nazi war machine; and

25 WHEREAS, More than 50 years have passed since the
26 tragic events that are now called the Holocaust, in which
27 the dictatorship of Nazi Germany murdered 6 million
28 Jews (two-thirds of the pre-World War II European
29 Jewish population) as part of a systematic program
30 known as “The Final Solution of the Jewish Question”;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, “Holocaust” is the term describing the
33 Nazi annihilation of the Jewish people, including 4.5
34 million from Russia, Poland, and the Baltic; 750,000 from
35 Hungary and Romania; 290,000 from Germany and
36 Austria; 105,000 from The Netherlands; 90,000 from
37 France; 54,000 from Greece, among others; and

38 WHEREAS, Even with the passage of half a century, it
39 is still hard to comprehend the magnitude of this crime
40 against humanity. The Holocaust was a tragedy of



1 proportions the world had never before witnessed and we
2 must continue to be reminded of the reality of the
3 Holocaust's horrors so they will never again be repeated;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, World War II lasted six years and a day
6 and, in both human and material terms, its cost was
7 appalling and in certain aspects beyond any estimation.
8 Twenty-seven nations had taken an active part in the
9 conflict as armed belligerents, and the combatants had
10 mobilized approximately 100 million men and women in
11 their armed services and lost in the vicinity of 16 million
12 dead in addition to those permanently disabled; and

13 WHEREAS, Displaced persons to the number of some
14 20 million had been torn from their homes and whole
15 areas had been reduced below the starvation level by the
16 deliberate actions of the conquerors; and

17 WHEREAS, Over 16 million American men and
18 women served in the armed services in World War II
19 more than in any other war, and altogether, over 50
20 million people, both civilian and military, died; and

21 WHEREAS, Three times as many bombs were dropped
22 on Germany during the last seven months of war (after
23 D-Day landings) than in all the years before; and

24 WHEREAS, The total number of aircraft used by both
25 sides during the war was approximately 675,000, of which
26 475,000 were employed by the Allies; and

27 WHEREAS, Of the 17 battleships in United States
28 Naval service in 1941, only the U.S.S. Arizona (BB-39),
29 and the U.S.S. Oklahoma (BB-37) were lost at Pearl
30 Harbor. And, by the war's conclusion four years later,
31 September 1945, 23 United States battleships were listed
32 in service, all having been constructed and launched from
33 America's great shipyards, many in California; and

34 WHEREAS, During what is known as the Battle of the
35 Atlantic, over 2,600 ships were sunk totaling 15 million
36 tons. Great Britain lost nearly 60,000 sailors and seamen.
37 Germany lost 28,000 U-Boat ~~submarines~~ *submariners* and
38 785 submarines. United States losses were only a fraction
39 of these; and



1 WHEREAS, Japan lost a total of 12 aircraft carriers in
2 four naval battles in the Battle for the Pacific: including
3 the battles at Coral Sea on May 7 through 8, 1942; Midway
4 on June 3 through 6, 1942; Marianas on June 18 through
5 20, 1944; and Leyte on October 23 through 26, 1944. At the
6 outbreak of war, December 7, 1941, Japan had over 3,500
7 aircraft compared to fewer than 1,300 Allied aircraft in
8 the war area. The United States lost four large aircraft
9 carriers, the U.S.S. Lexington (~~V-2~~) (CV-2); the U.S.S.
10 Yorktown (CV-10); the U.S.S. Hornet (CV-12), and the
11 U.S.S. Wasp (CV-18) in the same four battles; and

12 WHEREAS, In the Battle of Leyte Gulf, six of the seven
13 ships in the Japanese Southern Force were sunk by the
14 United States' 7th Fleet ships that had previously included
15 five United States battleships that were sunk or damaged
16 at Pearl Harbor, including: U.S.S. Pennsylvania (BB-38);
17 U.S.S. Tennessee (BB-43); U.S.S. California (BB-44);
18 U.S.S. Maryland (BB-46); and the U.S.S. West Virginia
19 (BB-48); and

20 WHEREAS, The greatest damage to the United States
21 Navy in the Pacific war was not caused by the Japanese
22 fleet, but by a typhoon off the coast of the Philippines in
23 December 1944; and

24 WHEREAS, In early 1945, the United States was in the
25 process of recapturing the Philippine Islands from Japan
26 and in a desperate act to prevent it, Japanese military
27 leaders authorized the formation of a Special Attack
28 Force, known as Kamikazes ("Divine Wind") whose
29 mission was to destroy American aircraft carriers. Each
30 member of this special unit volunteered to sacrifice his
31 life by diving a bomb-laden plane into the deck of a
32 United States carrier; and

33 WHEREAS, By the end of the war, over 1,200
34 Kamikaze pilots had sunk 34 United States ships,
35 damaged 288 others, and caused over 15,000 casualties;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, The United States Marine Corps strength
38 when the country entered World War II in December
39 1941 was 65,000 officers and enlisted men. It hit its peak
40 strength in August 1945, when the total had risen to



1 485,113, with six divisions and five aircraft wings, and in
2 addition, 23,000 women served in the Corps; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States ~~merchant~~marine
4 *Merchant Marines* distinguished themselves above the
5 call of duty in numerous perilous situations to service the
6 Armed Forces. Merchant marine veterans were awarded
7 145 Distinguished Service Medals and 425 Meritorious
8 Service Medals for deeds of heroism throughout World
9 War II; and

10 WHEREAS, Enemy action sank more than 700 United
11 States flagged merchant ships and claimed the lives of
12 over 6,000 civilian seafarers. Untold thousands of
13 additional seamen were wounded or injured during these
14 attacks, and nearly 600 were made prisoners of war; and

15 WHEREAS, Final recognition of the merchant marines
16 was granted by the United States Secretary of Defense in
17 1988, conferring official veterans status upon those
18 merchant mariners who served aboard ocean-going
19 merchant ships in World War II, and whose officers and
20 crews played a key role in transporting the troops and war
21 materials that enabled the United States and its allies to
22 defeat the Axis powers; and

23 *WHEREAS, United States Army glider pilots,*
24 *numbering only 6,500, made daring no-engine "forced*
25 *landings" carrying 15 men, or a jeep, or 400 canisters of*
26 *gasoline, in a canvas-covered pipe frame with 84-foot*
27 *wings, and distinguished themselves in the invasions of*
28 *Sicily in July 1943, Burma in March 1944, Normandy in*
29 *June 1944, Southern France in August 1944, Holland in*
30 *September 1944, and Bastogne in December and January*
31 *1944-45, when 52 glider pilots ferried gasoline for Patton's*
32 *tanks and complete hospital units to relieve the United*
33 *States troops surrounded by Nazi forces, and finally*
34 *crossing the Rhine near Wesel in Operation Varsity when*
35 *906 CG-4As glider pilots of the United States Army Air*
36 *Corps braved heavy small-arms fire to make low altitude*
37 *landings in plowed fields and in small clearings in the*
38 *wooded areas. Often called suicide squads, suffering up to*
39 *60 percent casualties in Sicily and 25 percent in the*
40 *Normandy "Overlord" Invasion, America's glider pilots*



1 *epitomized the spirit of the times in largely ignoring the*
2 *unknown hazards connected with flying without an*
3 *engine, landing without lights, and on rough ground in*
4 *enemy territory; and*

5 WHEREAS, The official estimates for all United States
6 Armed Services during World War II are 1,076,245 total
7 casualties of war from the 16,112,566 men and women in
8 service, of these 291,557 were killed in action, 113,842 died
9 from other unknown causes, with a total of 405,399 deaths,
10 and another 670,846 were wounded; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Battle Monuments
12 Commission in Washington D.C. administers United
13 States Military cemeteries overseas. There are 14
14 cemeteries on foreign soil where United States armed
15 forces personnel killed in World War II are buried. The
16 largest is near Manila, the Philippines, which has 17,208
17 graves and commemorates an additional 36,279 persons
18 missing in action. The smallest is at Rhone, France, which
19 has 861 graves and commemorates 293 missing personnel;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Material losses were almost equally
22 staggering. The direct cost of World War II lay in the
23 vicinity of \$1,500 billion. American expenditures were
24 over \$350 billion, the British spent \$300 billion, and
25 Germany spent \$280 billion. The main production
26 facilities of the great industrial nations had been turned
27 from the purposes of peace to those of destruction; and

28 WHEREAS, The magnitude of grief brought on by the
29 conflict of war can be seen in other ways that affected
30 millions of people and family members here at home in
31 both large and small communities; and

32 WHEREAS, So incalculable is the personal loss and
33 grief that only poetry provides an adequate description.
34 Who among those living half a century ago does not
35 remember such tragedies as the death of Swing Band
36 leader Glen Miller, the story of all 11 starting members of
37 the Montana State University's 1940-41 football team
38 killed in action, or the explosion at Port Chicago Naval
39 Magazine near Concord, California in July 1945 that was
40 the single worst World War II-related disaster in the



1 continental United States². In that case ammunition
2 being loaded onto a United States naval vessel exploded
3 with such terrific force it killed 320 sailors from an
4 all-African-American Navy unit and leveled the town;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Nowhere is there a more poignant
7 example of personal loss or grief, nor more gallant an
8 example of distinguished service to this country, than the
9 saga of the “Fighting Sullivan Brothers,” five brothers
10 who were killed in action on November 12 through 15,
11 1942 during the naval battle of Guadalcanal when their
12 light cruiser, U.S.S. Juneau (CLAA-111) was torpedoed
13 and sunk by a submarine; and

14 WHEREAS, Fifty years ago, the leaders of the United
15 States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union met at the
16 wartime conference site of Yalta, a port in the Black Sea
17 in the Soviet Union, in February, 1945. President Franklin
18 Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and
19 Premier Joseph Stalin conferred on the approaching end
20 of World War II and the outlines for the postwar world,
21 and reached agreement, including the Declaration of
22 Liberated Europe, where all three governments agreed
23 to the reconstruction of a democratic continent; and

24 WHEREAS, Long after the Yalta Conference, it
25 remains clear that the most significant way of making all
26 Europe more secure is to make it more free, and that our
27 50-year pledge is to the goal of a restored community of
28 free European nations. To this work we recommit
29 ourselves today; and

30 WHEREAS, May 7, 1945, is known as V-E Day, “Victory
31 in Europe Day,” when the armed forces of Germany
32 surrendered to the Allies; and

33 WHEREAS, From April 25 through June 26, 1945,
34 representatives from 50 nations hammered out the
35 United Nations Charter in San Francisco; and

36 WHEREAS, On August 6, 1945, a United States B-29
37 Superfortress flew over the Japanese city of Hiroshima
38 and dropped the first of the war’s two atomic bombs; and

39 WHEREAS, When Japan finally surrendered to the
40 Allies in September 1945, it still had over 2 million



1 combat-ready troops and 9,000 aircraft available to
2 defend its homeland; and

3 WHEREAS, August 15, 1945, is the day the war with
4 Japan ended, and V-J Day, “Victory over Japan” the
5 actual date of surrender is celebrated on September 2;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The American flag that flew aboard the
8 battleship U.S.S. Missouri during the surrender
9 ceremonies in Tokyo Harbor on September 2, 1945, was
10 the same flag that had flown over the United States
11 Capitol in Washington D.C. on December 7, 1941; and

12 WHEREAS, The first American flag to be flown over
13 Berlin in July 1945 had also flown over the United States
14 Capitol in Washington D.C. the day the United States
15 declared war on Japan, December 8, 1941; and

16 WHEREAS, The V-J Day formal signing officially
17 ended 1,364 days, five hours, and fourteen minutes of
18 World War II in the Pacific; and

19 WHEREAS, June 14, 1995, will serve as the 220th
20 birthday anniversary of the United States Army that was
21 formed by the Continental Congress in 1775, and
22 reinforced by volunteer militia. The United States Army
23 is a vital force in the preservation of those ideals as
24 embodied in the United States Constitution, and has often
25 been called upon during the last 220 years to defend
26 America’s freedom; and

27 WHEREAS, October 17, 1995, will serve as the 220th
28 birthday anniversary of the United States Navy. The
29 United States Navy is a vital force in the projection of
30 power abroad and the preservation of those ideals as
31 embodied in the United States Constitution, and has often
32 been called upon during the last 220 years to defend
33 America’s freedom; and

34 WHEREAS, November 10, 1995, will serve as the 220th
35 birthday anniversary of the United States Marine Corps.
36 From its inception, the Marine Corps has had an
37 illustrious history which compares with the most famous
38 military organizations in the world; and

39 WHEREAS, It is appropriate that California recognize
40 the sacrifices of its citizens who distinguished themselves



1 in combat and have been awarded many meritorious
2 decorations for valor; and

3 WHEREAS, The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the
4 United States, Department of California, was founded on
5 January 15, 1921, and the men and women members of
6 the Veterans of Foreign Wars and those many other
7 veterans organizations deserve the respect and
8 admiration of all who enjoy our precious and hard-won
9 freedoms; and

10 WHEREAS, The Legion of Valor is made up of United
11 States service veterans awarded the Medal of Honor,
12 Army Distinguished Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force
13 Cross; and

14 WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is our country's
15 highest military award, given for "uncommon valor" by
16 men and women in the armed forces and is presented for
17 actions that are above and beyond the call of duty in
18 combat against an armed enemy; and

19 WHEREAS, The Order of the Purple Heart is our
20 nation's oldest military decoration having been first
21 bestowed by George Washington for military merit on
22 August 7, 1782. It is now awarded to members of the
23 armed forces who are wounded in action with the enemy
24 or granted posthumously to the next of kin in the name
25 of those killed in action or who die of wounds received in
26 action; and

27 WHEREAS, California has 21 chapters of the Military
28 Order of the Purple Heart and it is estimated there are
29 approximately 75,867 Purple Heart veterans alive today;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Our fallen service veterans are to be
32 commended, for they have rendered the greatest
33 patriotic service and we can only hope that our
34 appreciation of freedoms we all enjoy in America, your
35 land, and mine will do justice to their sacrifice; and

36 WHEREAS, Freedom is not the natural state of man; it
37 is an achievement. It came hard and was purchased by the
38 free shedding of the blood of its champions on the hard
39 fought battlefields of history. Only because our
40 forebearers, forgetful of life and pain, bravely carried the



1 banners of liberty against the minions of tyrants that we
2 can today choose our own leaders and national destiny;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Grateful Americans have been saluting
5 this country's military for more than 200 years. And,
6 America's gratitude to its United States Armed Forces
7 and Allies that fought and died during World War II
8 extends beyond our obvious thanks and appreciation for
9 keeping American citizens free. Liberty is never lost to a
10 nation until it is lost in the souls of the men and women
11 who compose that nation; and

12 WHEREAS, Today, 50 years after the conclusion of
13 World War II, we are the beneficiaries of the courageous
14 past achievements of our forefathers in political liberty,
15 and our United States Armed Forces and merchant
16 mariners in preserving peace and order around the
17 world; and

18 WHEREAS, In the hands of the people of our state and
19 nation is lodged the supreme power to preserve or to
20 neglect our freedom. Along with power also goes the
21 work and worry of responsibility. This responsibility must
22 be borne by human shoulders whatever the cost in
23 sacrifice and effort. It has been well said that eternal
24 vigilance is the price of liberty and it might have been
25 added that this price includes continual effort and
26 service; and

27 WHEREAS, We must have citizens, officials, and
28 popular leaders willing to make the sacrifices of both time
29 and ease, and willing to give up their pleasures and
30 comforts to continually defend our institutions and to
31 aggressively champion in the market place of public
32 opinion our American ideals; and

33 WHEREAS, There must be a continuous process of
34 public education by public leaders, unselfishly given, to
35 persuade each new generation of citizens to keep
36 America free and strong; and

37 WHEREAS, If the time comes that American men and
38 women will no longer willingly die to defend the
39 Constitution, it will fall. It is equally true that if the time
40 comes that American men and women will no longer give



1 of their lives, their substance, and their time to defend
2 and serve the Constitution in peace, it will be ignored and
3 overthrown. This neglect of duty has led to the
4 breakdown of government in many countries throughout
5 the course of time; and

6 WHEREAS, The thing to be afraid of today in our state
7 and nation is that we do not give an effective testimony
8 to our youth of the value of American institutions and
9 what they have cost in the history of our country; and

10 WHEREAS, Let us each here and now pledge ourselves
11 to pass down to our sons and daughters, the great
12 American birthright of freedom. For if there is anything
13 we get out of being American that urges us in service of
14 our country, it is the inheritance of that freedom we call
15 our American privilege; and

16 WHEREAS, In the memory of all allied soldiers who
17 fought and sacrificed their lives against the perils of
18 fascism a half a century ago, it is altogether fitting that the
19 people of the State of California should commemorate the
20 50th anniversary of the allied military operations bringing
21 a successful conclusion to World War II; and

22 WHEREAS, Fifty years have passed since cessation of
23 hostilities that concluded World War II, and it is
24 appropriate that the people of the State of California
25 acknowledge the significance of the United States armed
26 services and its historic connections with the citizens of
27 California, and in particular their contribution to keeping
28 America free; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
30 *Senate thereof concurring,* That in recognition of the 50th
31 commemorative anniversary of the conclusion of World
32 War II, the Legislature urges all citizens to join in the
33 celebrations honoring those who have served and are
34 serving their country in the United States Armed Forces;
35 and be it further

36 *Resolved,* That the citizens of California freely show
37 their patriotic support of this nation's veterans at
38 appropriate public occasions and ceremonies
39 commemorating 1995 as the 50th anniversary of the
40 conclusion of World War II, including the celebrations of



1 Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day,
2 Independence Day, and Veterans Day, as well as other
3 United States Armed Forces celebrations; and be it
4 further
5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
6 transmit a copy of this resolution to the author for
7 appropriate distribution.

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