

**Introduced by Senator Johannessen  
(Principal coauthor: Senator Kopp)**

January 5, 1998

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 34—Relative to Arlington National Cemetery.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 34, as introduced, Johannessen. Arlington National Cemetery.

This measure would memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States to take all necessary action in the future to ensure that the sacred military burial ground of Arlington National Cemetery is maintained for those currently eligible for burial there.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Arlington National Cemetery is a United  
2 States burial ground which was established in 1864; and

3 WHEREAS, Arlington National Cemetery consists of  
4 420 acres in northeastern Virginia located on the Potomac  
5 River across from Washington, D.C., and contains the  
6 remains of more than 240,000 former military service  
7 members and their spouses and children; and

8 WHEREAS, Those interred in the cemetery include  
9 representatives of the dead from all of America's wars,  
10 and many of these representatives achieved personal  
11 distinction, including, among others, President John F.  
12 Kennedy, General John J. Pershing, and Admiral Robert  
13 E. Peary; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition to those who have died on  
2 active duty, others who are eligible for burial in Arlington  
3 National Cemetery include, among others: holders of the  
4 nation's highest military decorations, including the Medal  
5 of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air  
6 Force Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star,  
7 and Purple Heart; persons eligible for military retirement  
8 under specified conditions; veterans honorably  
9 discharged with at least a 30 percent disability before  
10 October 1, 1949; the spouse or unmarried child of any of  
11 the above persons or of any person already interred in the  
12 cemetery; and a veteran who is the parent, brother, sister,  
13 or child of an eligible person already interred in the  
14 cemetery; and

15 WHEREAS, Numerous civilians have been exempted  
16 from these normal eligibility rules; and

17 WHEREAS, These exempted persons include Supreme  
18 Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, a Drug Enforcement  
19 Administration agent killed during an assignment in  
20 Peru, and a Marine veteran killed in the line of duty as a  
21 District of Columbia police officer; and

22 WHEREAS, It is imperative that this hallowed burial  
23 ground be maintained for those currently eligible for  
24 interment there; and

25 WHEREAS, Exemptions to current burial criteria  
26 should be held to an absolute minimum and granted only  
27 with the exercise of extreme care and good judgment;  
28 now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of*  
30 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of  
31 California respectfully memorializes the President and  
32 the Congress of the United States to take all necessary  
33 action in the future to ensure that the sacred military  
34 burial ground of Arlington National Cemetery is  
35 maintained for those currently eligible for burial there;  
36 and be it further

37 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit  
38 copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice  
39 President of the United States, to the Speaker of the  
40 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and



1 Representative from California in the Congress of the  
2 United States.

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