

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 158

Introduced by Assembly Member Yamada
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cook, DeVore, Huber, Lieu, V.
Manuel Perez, Salas, and Saldana)
(Coauthors: Senators Cedillo, Wiggins, and Wolk)

April 14, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 158—Relative to Women Veterans Recognition Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 158, as introduced, Yamada. Women Veterans Recognition Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of May to be Women Veterans Recognition Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The August 2009 California Research Bureau
2 report, “California’s Women Veterans: The Challenges and Needs
3 of Those Who Served” made all of the following findings; and
4 WHEREAS, Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee founded the Army
5 Nurse Corps, which the Army Reorganization Act of 1901
6 permanently established. In 1908, the pioneering team of 20 Navy
7 nurses became “the Sacred Twenty.” The Army and Navy did not
8 commission these women as officers. Nevertheless, that act marked
9 the first time a reserve corps of the Army and Navy included
10 women; and
11 WHEREAS, Women entered the Armed Forces when Congress
12 established the Women’s Army Corps in 1942 and Women in the

1 Air Force in 1943, which commissioned women as officers and
2 paid women the same benefits as men including pay and protection;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, approximately 7,000
5 women were deployed as nurses, medical personnel, and as general
6 support personnel; and

7 WHEREAS, During the Persian Gulf War, the federal
8 government deployed approximately 41,000 women who flew
9 combat aircraft, operated missile placements, served on ships,
10 drove in convoys, and performed other roles in a combat
11 environment; and

12 WHEREAS, In the early 1990s, Congress and the Department
13 of Defense lifted restrictions that prevented women from training
14 for and working in over 260,000 military occupational specialties;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Women make up 13 percent of the troops deployed
17 during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom
18 which is the largest wartime deployment of women in history; and

19 WHEREAS, Eight percent, or nearly 167,000 veterans living
20 in California, are women, which is the greatest proportion of female
21 veterans in the country; and

22 WHEREAS, More than 200,000 women are serving in the
23 military as truck drivers, convoy security, gunners, medics, military
24 police, and helicopter pilots as well as working in intelligence,
25 maintenance, communications, and other logistical and operational
26 support areas; and

27 WHEREAS, There are 3,326 women serving in the California
28 National Guard, which is 15 percent of the total number of men
29 and women enlisted; and

30 WHEREAS, Women veterans reluctantly seek care in Veterans
31 Affairs hospitals, a mostly male patient environment where
32 physicians do not practice healthcare specific to women; and

33 WHEREAS, Eighty percent of servicewomen have reported
34 being sexually harassed or have suffered military sexual trauma
35 (MST), which the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
36 defines as “sexual harassment that is threatening in character or
37 physical assault of a sexual nature that occurred while the victim
38 was in the military, regardless of geographic location of the trauma,
39 gender of victim, or the relationship to the perpetrator”; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2007, 46,000 women veterans reported MST.
2 Although one in three women was sexually assaulted while in the
3 military, women underreport MST and few cases get to military
4 court, in part, because survivors must continue to live and work
5 with their perpetrators. Some women veterans were assaulted by
6 their superior officers; and

7 WHEREAS, Women veterans who have suffered MST are nine
8 times more likely to develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
9 (PTSD) than women without sexual assault histories; and

10 WHEREAS, Women returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom
11 and Operation Enduring Freedom are at a higher risk for depression
12 than men. They are also more likely than male veterans to have
13 experienced serious psychological distress; and

14 WHEREAS, Women veterans are four times more likely than
15 their civilian counterparts to become homeless. Many veterans'
16 homeless shelters do not accept women veterans with children
17 even though this demography is growing; and

18 WHEREAS, California's women veterans need recognition and
19 respect for their military service; and

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the
22 month of May to be Women Veterans Recognition Month; and be
23 it further

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