

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 9, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 163

**Introduced by Assembly Members Cook, Pan, Butler, and
John A. Pérez**

**(~~Coauthor: Assembly Member Bonilla~~Coauthors: Assembly Members
Atkins, Bill Berryhill, Block, Bonilla, Donnelly, Gordon,
Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Logue, Miller, Nestande, Perea, Solorio,
and Williams)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Blakeslee, Cannella, DeSaulnier,
Dutton, Evans, Fuller, Gaines, Harman, Lieu, Pavley, Rubio, Runner,
and Wolk)**

June 25, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 163—Relative to the 25th anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 163, as amended, Cook. California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

This measure would recognize the 25th anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial on November 23, 2013, and encourage all Californians to take part in ceremonies, organized by the California State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America along with assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs and other veterans service organizations. This measure would call upon the state archives to display memorabilia in a special display ~~created by the California State Military Museum and would also call upon~~ *on the Vietnam War, as provided, the California State Military Museum to prepare and display exhibits on the Vietnam war, as provided, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to add names to the memorial, as provided.*

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, California has the largest United States veterans'
2 population in the nation, comprising approximately 2 million armed
3 services veterans, which is 12.3 percent of the nationwide veteran
4 population of nearly 25 million veterans, who represent
5 approximately one-fifth of California's total population; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 350,000 California veterans served in
7 Vietnam, resulting in 5,822 of them being killed or missing in
8 action, which comprised more than 10 percent of the nation's total,
9 and 40,000 of them being wounded; and

10 WHEREAS, More California residents died in Vietnam than
11 residents of any other state and California veterans received more
12 Medals of Honor, Bronze Stars, and Purple Hearts than veterans
13 of any other state; and

14 WHEREAS, The history of the California Vietnam Veterans
15 Memorial began when Herman Woods, a double amputee who
16 served in the 1st Air Cavalry Division, United States Army (1970),
17 returned to California from the dedication of the National Vietnam
18 Veterans Memorial in our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C. in
19 1982; and

20 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Richard Floyd subsequently
21 held a rally on the steps of the State Capitol, and over 800 people
22 attended; he was convinced that construction of the California
23 Vietnam Veterans Memorial was the will of California Vietnam
24 veterans; and

25 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Richard Floyd introduced
26 Assembly Bill 650, which created the California Vietnam Veterans
27 Memorial in Capitol Park, that was signed into law by Governor
28 Deukmejian in September 1983; and

29 WHEREAS, The newly formed Vietnam Veterans Memorial
30 Commission was comprised of nine veterans, eight of whom served
31 in Vietnam, including Linda J. McClenahan, Chairperson, Leo K.
32 Thorsness, Medal of Honor recipient and Vice Chairperson, and
33 members Gregory C. Green, Treasurer, Abel A. Cota, Secretary,
34 B.T. Collins, Don A. Drumheller, Jesse G. Ugalde, Senator Jim
35 Ellis, Assembly Member Richard E. Floyd, member and author
36 of Assembly Bill 650, and Jerri L. Dale, Executive Officer, which
37 led to the creation of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial;
38 and

1 WHEREAS, The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial is
2 located in the north-east section of the Capitol Park grounds of the
3 State Capitol and is a standing tribute to the 5,822 servicemen and
4 servicewomen killed and missing in action; and

5 WHEREAS, The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial was
6 dedicated on December 10, 1988, in Capitol Park; and there were
7 thousands in attendance at the dedication ceremonies where
8 Brigadier General George B. Price was the keynote speaker at the
9 dedication; and the dedication events were spread out over a
10 two-day period, commencing with “Buddy Search” registrations,
11 unit reunions, open houses, and concluding with the dedication
12 ceremony in Capitol Park; and

13 WHEREAS, The theme of the memorial reflects the
14 overwhelming majority of those who were killed in Vietnam,
15 including 19-year old infantry soldiers, their youth, camaraderie,
16 the fatigue of the war, and the American women who served, with
17 the winning entry in the opening design competition awarded to
18 Michael Larson, a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, and Thomas
19 Chytrowski; and

20 WHEREAS, B.T. Collins and Stan Atkinson, who had traveled
21 to Vietnam together after the war, undertook the mission of raising
22 the necessary funds to complete the memorial; and

23 WHEREAS, The California State Council of Vietnam Veterans
24 of America will be the organizer of this event as they were for the
25 2008 20th anniversary event; and

26 WHEREAS, all California components of veterans service
27 organizations will be participating in this historic event; now,
28 therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby commemorates
31 2013 as the 25-year anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans
32 Memorial, encourages all Californians to take part in the
33 ceremonies commemorating the 25-year anniversary, to be held
34 on November 23, 2013, including opening ceremonies; and be it
35 further

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges that all steps necessary to
37 inform all Californians of the date of these ceremonies and
38 locations of these events be taken so that all Californians may have
39 the opportunity to remember and honor the service, efforts, and

1 sacrifices of Vietnam veterans, and to pay homage to those veterans
2 who are still alive; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Department of Veterans Affairs ~~and all state~~
4 ~~agencies should assist in informing Californians and shall provide~~
5 assistance to the organizers of the 25th anniversary commemoration
6 event: *in promoting and conducting this historic event*; and be it
7 further

8 *Resolved*, That the state archives display memorabilia *that have*
9 *been left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—when, since the*
10 ~~memorial was dedicated, which was and that are currently~~
11 ~~deposited in the state archives, in a special display for 2013 on the~~
12 ~~Vietnam War—created by the California State Military Museum;~~
13 and be it further

14 *RESOLVED*, That the California State Military Museum shall
15 *prepare and display exhibits on the Vietnam War at the Department*
16 *of Veterans Affairs and at the State Capitol; and be it further*

17 *RESOLVED*, That all state agencies shall promote the memorial
18 event and honor men and women who are Vietnam War veterans;
19 and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the Department of Veterans Affairs should
21 establish a task force to compile a list of California servicemen
22 and servicewomen whose names may not be currently listed on
23 the memorial so that they can be added to the memorial; and be it
24 further

25 *Resolved*, That names should be added to the memorial of
26 California Vietnam veterans whose passing since their service in
27 Vietnam can reasonably be attributed to their wartime service,
28 based upon recommendations from interested parties; and be it
29 further

30 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the Governor to issue
31 a proclamation on November 23, 2013, commemorating the 25th
32 anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and be
33 it further

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

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