

Date of Hearing: August 14, 2012

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Paul J. Cook, Chair

ACR 163 (Cook) – As Introduced: June 25, 2012

SUBJECT: California Vietnam Veterans Memorial

SUMMARY: This measure recognizes the 25th anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the Capitol Park, Sacramento (Memorial). Specifically, this bill:

1. Recognizes the 25th anniversary of the Memorial on November 23, 2013;
2. Urges that all steps necessary to inform all Californians of the date of these ceremonies and locations of these events be taken;
3. Resolves that the Department of Veterans Affairs and all state agencies shall assist in informing Californians and provide assistance to the organizers of the 25th anniversary commemoration event;
4. Resolves that the state archives display memorabilia that have been left at the Memorial since the memorial was dedicated, and that are currently in the state archives, in a special display for 2013 on the Vietnam War;
5. States that the Department of Veterans Affairs should establish a task force to compile a list of California servicemen and servicewomen whose names may not be currently listed on the Memorial so that they can be added to it;
6. States that names should be added to the Memorial of California Vietnam veterans whose passing since their service in Vietnam can reasonably be attributed to their wartime service, based upon recommendations from interested parties;
7. Resolves that the California State Military Museum prepare and display exhibits on the Vietnam War at the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Capitol;
8. That all state agencies shall promote the memorial event and honor men and women who are Vietnam War veterans; and
9. Resolves that that the Legislature calls upon the Governor to issue a proclamation on November 23, 2013, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Memorial.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown at this time. The bill is keyed fiscal.

COMMENTS: Vietnam veterans did not receive the same kind of recognition and public support for their sacrifices that veterans of other conflicts did. The establishment of the California Vietnam Memorial was an important public recognition of the sacrifice made by California Vietnam veterans. Though the War ended nearly forty years ago, an event such as contemplated by this resolution demonstrates our state's continuing memory of the Vietnam War

and also shows the veterans of our now more than ten years of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan that we do not forget those who serve.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None at this time.

Opposition

None at this time.

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