

**Introduced by Senator Stone
(Coauthors: Senators Bates, Fuller, Huff, Morrell, Nguyen, Nielsen,
Roth, Runner, and Vidak)**

May 22, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 66—Relative to the 71st anniversary of D-Day, the invasion of Normandy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 66, as introduced, Stone. 71st anniversary of D-Day, the invasion of Normandy.

This measure would recognize June 6, 2015, as the 71st anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, also known as D-Day. This measure would express the gratitude and appreciation of the Legislature to the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in D-Day, and would call upon the people of California to observe the anniversary with appropriate reflections and recognition.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, June 6, 2015, marks the 71st anniversary of the
- 2 invasion at Normandy, France, by the Allied forces, known as
- 3 Operation Overlord; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Before Operation Overlord, the German Army
- 5 occupied France and the Nazi government had access to the raw
- 6 materials and industrial capacity of Western Europe; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D.
- 8 Eisenhower called Operation Overlord a “Crusade in Europe,”
- 9 telling the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who would participate in
- 10 the operation that “The free men of the world are marching together

1 to victory. I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty,
2 and skill in battle”; and

3 WHEREAS, The naval assault phase on Normandy was
4 code-named “Neptune,” and the June 6th assault date is referred
5 to as D-Day to denote the day on which the invasion was launched;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Significant aerial bombardments and operations,
8 including Operation Fortitude, by Allied forces during the weeks
9 and months leading up to and in support of Operation Overlord,
10 played a significant role in the success of the Normandy landings;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, More than 13,000 soldiers parachuted, and several
13 hundred soldiers in the glider units, participating in Mission Detroit
14 and Mission Chicago, landed behind enemy lines to secure landing
15 fields in the 24 hours preceding the amphibious landing; and

16 WHEREAS, Soldiers of six divisions, composed of three
17 American, two British, and one Canadian division, stormed ashore
18 in five main landing areas on beaches in Normandy that were
19 code-named “Utah,” “Omaha,” “Gold,” “Juno,” and “Sword”; and

20 WHEREAS, The D-Day landing was the largest single
21 amphibious assault in history, consisting of approximately 31,000
22 members of the United States Armed Forces and more than 3,000
23 vehicles that embarked on 208 vessels from Weymouth and
24 Portland, England; and

25 WHEREAS, Of the estimated 9,400 casualties incurred by Allied
26 forces on the first day of the landing, an estimated 5,400 casualties
27 were members of the United States Armed Forces; and

28 WHEREAS, Only five days after the initial landing, Allied
29 forces secured a beachhead that was 50 miles long and 12 miles
30 deep and was occupied by more than 325,000 soldiers; and

31 WHEREAS, On July 25, 1944, Allied forces launched Operation
32 COBRA to break out of the beachhead and began the liberation
33 of France, which ultimately contributed to the destruction of the
34 Nazi regime on May 7, 1945; and

35 WHEREAS, Planned for over two years by Allied forces, the
36 D-Day invasion was an intricate coordination of the world's greatest
37 military forces and an exercise in cooperation that marked the
38 turning point of the war and the world's history; and

1 WHEREAS, Members of the “greatest generation” assumed the
2 task of cooperating to free the world from Nazi and Fascist regimes
3 and restore liberty to Europe; now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
5 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes June 6, 2015,
6 as the 71st anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, also known
7 as D-Day; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Legislature expresses its gratitude and
9 appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces
10 and the Allied forces who cooperated and sacrificed in this critical
11 battle to secure liberation from the Nazi and Fascist regimes; and
12 be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the people of
14 California to observe the 71st anniversary of D-Day with
15 appropriate reflections of this period of world history and
16 recognition of all those Californians and Americans who have
17 sacrificed for freedom; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
19 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.