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SCR-34 Veterans' Home of California. (2021-2022)

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 34

CHAPTER 122

Relative to veterans.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 10, 2021.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 34, Archuleta. Veterans' Home of California.

This measure would acknowledge the Department of Veterans Affairs' staff for their service to California's veterans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on California, disproportionately affecting aged and disabled individuals for nearly a year; and

WHEREAS, While the large number of nursing home deaths have been the greatest horror of the COVID-19 crisis across the country, the long-term care system operated by California's Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) has experienced a tiny fraction of these most tragic outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Weeks before the Governor's stay-at-home order, in spring 2020, CalVet enacted in its Veterans' Home of California facilities an ambitious action plan designed to aggressively ward off the virus and safeguard California's veterans under their care. CalVet leaders adapted this plan over the course of the pandemic to include a rigorous program of testing, contact tracing, screening, and stocking of personal protective equipment; and

WHEREAS, The leaders of the Veterans' Home of California established designated isolation areas at each facility and established protocols for specialized care and infection containment when necessary; and

WHEREAS, The creative staff at the department recognized the physical, mental, and spiritual health benefits of continuing to connect with family and peers and developed alternatives such as virtual visitation through video chat media; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans' Home of California are staffed by skilled and dedicated employees who remain mindful of the role they play in protecting the health and enriching the lives of California's veterans; and

WHEREAS, CalVet's success in limiting the impacts of the virus within its system and the staff's continued devotion to their mission sets these homes apart from other health care facilities across the state and nation; and

WHEREAS, While the pandemic is far from over, the hard work and dedication by staff at all levels in the Veterans' Home of California during the COVID-19 pandemic is second to none. Their commitment to continue to provide high-quality care to our

veterans does not go unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, CalVet continues to fulfill its mission to serve and honor all California veterans by connecting them and their families with their earned benefits through education, advocacy, and direct services; and

WHEREAS, This resolution endeavors to acknowledge and express gratitude to staff working tirelessly to keep residents safe and healthy at the eight Veterans' Home of California facilities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes the staff at all levels in the Veterans' Home of California facilities for their hard work and dedication. The staff have been second to none in their commitment to provide quality care and have saved the lives of countless veterans during the pandemic; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature thanks CalVet staff in all divisions for continuing to fulfill their sacred mission to honor and serve all California veterans through administering clinical care, providing housing assistance, offering home loans, and connecting veterans with their earned benefits through education and advocacy even in times of crisis; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature honors the tireless efforts of CalVet's employees to protect the health, safety, and prosperity of California's veterans; and be it further

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