

Date of Hearing: April 26, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Patrick O'Donnell, Chair

ACR 58 (Chu) – As Introduced April 17, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Public schools: history education

**SUMMARY:** Resolves that the Legislature urges the State Board of Education, county offices of education, and local school governing bodies to increase emphasis in their curricula on the engagement of the United States and allied forces in military activity in the China-Burma-India Theater during World War II. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) States that the California Department of Education is charged with ensuring that comprehensive, unbiased, and accurate information is available and taught to pupils.
- 2) States that it is important for public school curricula to be inclusive and representative of worldwide historical events to enhance students' understanding and interpretations of the historical impact of events that take place outside of the United States.
- 3) States that World War II was an infamous international conflict that involved over 30 countries, caused over 70 million casualties, and marked unfathomable bravery and sacrifice.
- 4) States that military activity in the Pacific and Asia during World War II is referred to as the Pacific War and accounted for 36 million casualties, one-half of the estimated total number of lives lost in World War II.
- 5) States that the China-Burma-India Theater (CBI Theater) of World War II, which included territories in east and south Asia, was active from 1942 to 1945.
- 6) States that the United States government identified efforts to supply and support Chinese troops as crucial to mitigating threats from Japanese invasions.
- 7) States that due to Japanese occupation of key territories in China, the only way to provide supplies to Chinese troops was through a dirt road in the mountains of Burma.
- 8) States that American, Chinese, Indian, and British forces in the CBI Theater orchestrated their military activities to open the supply route in Burma.
- 9) States that the forces had limited resources but persisted through immeasurable challenges, including a lack of supplies, inadequate manpower, disease, and attacks from enemy troops.
- 10) States that through American leadership, the forces successfully reclaimed the supply route and built Ledo Road to assist Chinese forces in World War II.
- 11) States that the CBI Theater has not been widely researched or covered by literature and history books used in California public schools.
- 12) States that California is a diverse state and could be seen as the Pacific corridor to Asia.

- 13) States that it is important that California history books instruct pupils about significant efforts, battles, and events that took place in Asia during World War II.
- 14) Resolves, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, that the Legislature urges the State Board of Education, county offices of education, and local school governing bodies to increase emphasis in their curricula on the bravery, sacrifice, and heroism of the United States and allied forces that engaged in military activity in the China-Burma-India Theater, and resolves that the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of the resolution to specified entities.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Requires local educational agencies to adopt a course of study for grades 7-12 which includes English, mathematics, science, history-social studies, and other subjects.
- 2) Establishes the Instructional Quality Commission and requires, upon request by the State Board of Education, that it make recommendations on courses of study.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown**COMMENTS:**

*Need for the resolution.* The author states, “World War II was a devastating event that affected many lives throughout the world. It was also an event that showcased great bravery, sacrifice, and courage. While history books provide many details regarding many memorable battles and victories, there is not enough attention given to military efforts which took place in the Pacific and Asia.

The China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater was organized to reclaim the supply route through the mountains of Burma in order to provide Chinese forces with assistance and supplies to beat back Japanese invasions. American troops took the lead with assistance from Chinese, Indian and British forces and were victorious even with the lack of resources and manpower. There are veterans residing in my district that participated in the CBI Theater and helped build the Ledo Road that was used to supply Chinese forces. I believe our children deserve to learn of such bravery and heroism in their history books and this is why I introduced ACR 58.”

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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