

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1939**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Cox**

February 11, 2004

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An act to add Section 429.6 to the Government Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1939, as introduced, Cox. California State Military Museum and Resource Center.

Existing law requires the Adjutant General to establish a California State Military Museum and Resource Center as a repository for military artifacts, memorabilia, equipment, documents, and other items related to the history of the California National Guard and memorabilia related to the Civil War.

This bill would designate the California State Military Museum and Resource Center as the official state military museum.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares  
2 all of the following:  
3 (1) The California State Military Museum, was authorized by  
4 the Legislature in 1981 by Section 179 of the Military and Veterans  
5 Code, which states “The Adjutant General [of the California  
6 National Guard] may establish a California National Guard  
7 military museum and resource center as a repository for military

1 artifacts, memorabilia, equipment, documents, and other items  
2 relating to the history of the California National Guard.”

3 (2) The museum was established in 1983 and is operated by a  
4 nonprofit educational organization that is exempt from taxation  
5 under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and has  
6 been in its present location in Sacramento since 1990.

7 (3) In 1994, the museum was designated the official military  
8 museum of California by Governor Pete Wilson by executive  
9 order.

10 (4) In 1995, the California Citizen Soldier Museum was  
11 renamed the California Military Museum and the museum’s focus  
12 was changed to include all of California’s military history.

13 (5) In true military fashion, a group of volunteers under the  
14 auspices of the California National Guard Historical Association  
15 began the task of establishing a museum.

16 (6) Today, the museum has over 30,000 military artifacts  
17 including weapons, uniforms, unit records, battle flags,  
18 photographs, personal letters, newspaper articles, medals, and  
19 other information.

20 (7) In 1993, the Legislature, by enacting Section 179.5 of the  
21 Military and Veterans Code transferred Civil War artifacts that  
22 were on display in the State Capitol to the California Military  
23 Museum for the museum to preserve, maintain, and exhibit these  
24 Civil War artifacts.

25 (8) In 1998, the Legislature, through the California Arts  
26 Council appropriated \$250,000 in state funding, allowing the  
27 California Military Museum to establish the California Military  
28 History Educational Project.

29 (9) The California Military History Educational Project is a  
30 cooperative effort between the California Military Museum, the  
31 University of California, Irvine’s Humanities Research Institute,  
32 California State University of Los Angeles Charter College of  
33 Education, and the University of California San Diego  
34 Supercomputer Center.

35 (10) The California Military History Educational Project has  
36 developed an educational Web site, a World War II oral history  
37 project, and the project also developed the grade appropriate  
38 California State Educational Curriculum in United States history  
39 and geography for use in California Schools.



1 (11) In 2000, the Legislature enacted an urgency measure,  
2 Chapter 16 of the Statutes of 2000, to require that military awards  
3 and decorations that come into possession of the Controller as  
4 unclaimed property are to be held in trust at the California National  
5 Guard Museum and Resource Center. This legislation was a  
6 beneficial development in the preservation of California's military  
7 history.

8 (12) In 2002, the Legislature directed the Adjutant General  
9 pursuant to Section 179 of the Military and Veterans Code to  
10 establish the California State Military Museum and Resource  
11 Center and appropriated funds for a local assistance grant to the  
12 museum.

13 (13) The museum is currently operated by the California  
14 Military Museum Foundation, a nonprofit organization that is  
15 exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
16 Revenue Code, under a memorandum of understanding between  
17 the Adjutant General and the foundation.

18 (14) The legislative and executive branches have a long history  
19 of supporting the California State Military Museum and Resource  
20 Center over the past 21 years.

21 (b) The Legislature finds and declares that it is appropriate at  
22 this time to designate by statute the California State Military  
23 Museum and Resource Center as the official state military  
24 museum.

25 SEC. 2. Section 429.6 is added to the Government Code, to  
26 read:

27 429.6. The California State Military Museum and Resource  
28 Center is the official state military museum.

