## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 264

Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY MURT, READSHAW, BOYLE, BRADFORD, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, DAVIS, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, FARINA, FRANKEL, GILLEN, GOODMAN, KAUFFMAN, KINSEY, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MCNEILL, MILLARD, ROZZI, SABATINA, SCHREIBER, SCHWEYER, SIMS, STAATS, TAYLOR, VEREB, WATSON AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 20, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 20, 2015

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Urging the Congress of the United States to expeditiously 2 address the health, social and economic needs of our female
- 3 veterans.
  - 4 WHEREAS, Today, women play an unprecedented role in our armed
  - 5 forces, with 280,000 having served with honor and courage in
  - 6 Iraq and Afghanistan alone; and
  - 7 WHEREAS, In these conflicts, women have served in roles
  - 8 previously closed to them, placing themselves in harm's way and
  - 9 often as close to combat as their male counterparts while
- 10 simultaneously paving the way for future women in the military
- 11 with their bravery and irreplaceable contributions; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Many of these warriors bear visible and invisible
- 13 wounds as a cost of their military service when they return
- 14 home; and
- 15 WHEREAS, There is a desperate need for a cultural shift which
- 16 respects and values these women as warriors who deserve every

- 1 benefit they have fought for and earned with their service to
- 2 this great country; and
- 3 WHEREAS, The Department of Defense, Department of Veterans
- 4 Affairs and other Federal partners must recognize and address
- 5 the unique challenges faced by women returning from combat
- 6 deployment, including their physical, mental and social health,
- 7 as these injuries can keep veterans from readjusting in their
- 8 occupations, their education and their relationships; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Some challenges that female veterans face in greater
- 10 proportion include homelessness, inadequate health facilities
- 11 and services at Veterans Administration facilities, military
- 12 sexual trauma and isolation; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The Disabled American Veterans' report entitled
- 14 "Women Veterans: The Long Journey Home" outlines many of the
- 15 specific institutional and cultural challenges and provides
- 16 solutions and recommendations to create a better homecoming for
- 17 our female veterans; therefore be it
- 18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
- 19 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
- 20 States to expeditiously address the health, social and economic
- 21 needs of female veterans and honor female veterans with the
- 22 respect and benefits they deserve; and be it further
- 23 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
- 24 each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.