
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 300 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, BROOKS, WARD, FARNESE, DINNIMAN,
MCGARRIGLE, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, BROWNE, ARGALL, GREENLEAF,
FOLMER, BOSCOLA, LEACH, RAFFERTY, AUMENT, HUTCHINSON, COSTA,
SABATINA, STREET, KILLION, MENSCH AND VULAKOVICH,
MARCH 27, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 27, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 28, 2018, as "Female Veterans Recognition Day"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the official
4 acceptance of women into the United States Armed Forces; and

5 WHEREAS, Women have a long, largely unrecognized history of
6 courageous service dating back to the founding days of our
7 nation; and

8 WHEREAS, Women like Margaret Corbin and Mary "Molly Pitcher"
9 McCauley filled their fallen husbands' places in battle, and
10 others like Ann Simpson Davis risked their lives to relay
11 messages and supplies through enemy lines during the
12 Revolutionary War; and

13 WHEREAS, Clara Barton and other women cared for wounded and
14 dying troops during the Civil War; and

15 WHEREAS, Cathay Williams and other women freed from slavery
16 during the Civil War disguised their gender to serve in the

1 armed forces of the United States without official commendation
2 or recognition; and

3 WHEREAS, Women were first recruited to serve in organized
4 auxiliary units as the United States prepared for entry into
5 World War I; and

6 WHEREAS, Although barred from combat roles, thousands of
7 women served as auxiliaries in clerical and technical duties and
8 21,000 others served as military nurses at camps and hospitals
9 in the United States and abroad; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite auxiliary and ancillary service, women were
11 still trivialized to such a degree that hundreds of women
12 veterans of the United States Army Signal Corps were forced to
13 purchase their own uniforms and were denied military discharges
14 until long after most women veterans had died; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1943, women were first granted official military
16 status as the Women's Army Corps (WACs), Women Accepted for
17 Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), the United States Navy and
18 the Marine Corps Women's Reserve; and

19 WHEREAS, Women were fully accepted into the armed forces of
20 the United States and granted veteran benefits and privileges
21 for service with the enactment of the Women's Armed Services
22 Integration Act of 1948; and

23 WHEREAS, Today, more than 200,000 women, approximately 10% of
24 all military personnel, including many who serve as generals or
25 admirals, serve in the armed forces; and

26 WHEREAS, One in ten living veterans today is a female veteran
27 and more than 71,000 female veterans live in Pennsylvania; and

28 WHEREAS, Many female veterans continue to face largely
29 unrecognized challenges following service in the armed forces,
30 with female veterans facing a greater risk of homelessness than

1 male veterans and one in four female veterans seeking Veteran
2 Affairs medical care having been a victim of sexual assault; and

3 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Commission for Women has asked the
4 legislature to recognize the service and sacrifices of women in
5 the service of this Commonwealth and the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, The courageous and dutiful efforts of women in the
7 service of this Commonwealth and the United States should be
8 called to the attention of all residents of this Commonwealth;
9 therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate March 28, 2018, as
11 "Female Veterans Recognition Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all residents of this
14 Commonwealth to join in recognizing, appreciating and saluting
15 the service and sacrifices of more than 71,000 female veterans
16 who reside in Pennsylvania.