

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the important role American women have played in
2 defending freedom and democracy; and commending the brave
3 servicewomen who currently serve this nation and this
4 Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, Approximately 21 million military veterans live in
6 the United States and, according to the United States Census,
7 approximately 1.6 million of those veterans are women; and

8 WHEREAS, Of the 953,000 military veterans residing in this
9 Commonwealth, 79,000 are women; and

10 WHEREAS, Throughout American history, women have played a
11 vital role in the preservation of democracy and basic human
12 rights by their participation in the military; and

13 WHEREAS, During the American Revolution, women often followed
14 their husbands and provided services, such as cooking and
15 nursing, to the troops; and

16 WHEREAS, Mary Hays, better known as Molly Pitcher, followed
17 her husband, who was a gunner in the Continental Army, and
18 fought alongside him at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778; and

1 WHEREAS, After the Revolutionary War, Molly Pitcher moved to
2 Carlisle and, in 1822, the Commonwealth granted her a pension of
3 \$40 per year for the remainder of her life for her service to
4 her country; and

5 WHEREAS, Women actively participated in the American Civil
6 War; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1863, Annie Etheridge acted as a nurse for Union
8 soldiers at the Battle of Gettysburg, caring for the wounded and
9 dying, in the midst of intense military conflict; and

10 WHEREAS, Annie Etheridge was awarded the Kearny Cross, a
11 medal given to Union soldiers for significant acts of bravery in
12 battle; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1901, Congress officially established the Army
14 Nurse Corps and, during World War I, over 21,000 army nurses
15 served in United States military hospitals and overseas; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1942, the Army established the Women's Army
17 Auxiliary Corps, which was then converted to the Women's Army
18 Corps in 1943; and

19 WHEREAS, By the end of World War II, women were not only
20 serving in the Army, but also in the Air Force, Navy, Marine
21 Corps and Coast Guard; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1976, women finally were admitted to military
23 service academies; and

24 WHEREAS, Today, women make up approximately 14.5% of all
25 active duty military personnel, and women make up 39% of health
26 care officers, 28% of administrative officers, 19% of
27 intelligence officers and 18% of supply officers; and

28 WHEREAS, Women are graduating from United States service
29 academies and have achieved the rank of general and admiral
30 across all branches of the United States military; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2008, Ann Dunwoody became the first woman in
2 United States military history to achieve the rank of four-star
3 general in the Army; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
5 important role American women have played in defending freedom
6 and democracy; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the brave
8 servicewomen who currently serve this nation and this
9 Commonwealth.