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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 64 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, DINNIMAN, BROOKS, FONTANA, SABATINA,  
GREENLEAF, BROWNE, BREWSTER, RESCHENTHALER, HAYWOOD, WARD,  
HUTCHINSON, RAFFERTY, COSTA, YUDICHAK, LANGERHOLC, FOLMER,  
TARTAGLIONE, KILLION, VULAKOVICH, HUGHES, MENSCH, AUMENT AND  
SCAVELLO, MARCH 28, 2017

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 28, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 29, 2017, as "Female Veterans Recognition Day"  
2 in Pennsylvania and encouraging all Pennsylvanians to join in  
3 recognizing, appreciating and saluting the service and  
4 sacrifices of more than 71,000 female veterans who live in  
5 Pennsylvania.

6 WHEREAS, Women have a long, courageous and largely  
7 unrecognized history of military service to our country; and

8 WHEREAS, At the founding of our nation, women provided  
9 important support services as nurses, cooks, laundresses and  
10 clerks for the troops and heroically stepped up to the front  
11 lines or risked their lives in other ways; and

12 WHEREAS, Margaret Corbin and Mary "Molly Pitcher" McCauley  
13 manned their fallen husbands' cannons at the battles of Fort  
14 Washington and Monmouth and Ann Simpson Davis carried supplies  
15 and messages across enemy lines during the southeastern  
16 Pennsylvania campaign of the War of Independence; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout the history of our nation, women such as  
18 Clara Barton, who cared for the wounded and dying from Antietam

1 to Andersonville during the Civil War, and Cathay Williams, who,  
2 freed from slavery during the Civil War, dressed as a man to  
3 serve two years as an infantry soldier, have, in every conflict,  
4 served our national interests largely without official  
5 recognition and commendation; and

6 WHEREAS, With America's approach and entry into World War I,  
7 for the first time women were recruited to serve in auxiliary  
8 military units; and

9 WHEREAS, During World War I, 14,000 women responded to free  
10 troops for combat by serving in noncombat duties such as clerks  
11 and radio electricians while 21,000 more women served in the  
12 United States Army Nurse Corps at camps and hospitals here and  
13 overseas; and

14 WHEREAS, Women's services nonetheless continued to be  
15 regarded in a subordinate position: hundreds of women who served  
16 in the United States Army Signal Corps were required to purchase  
17 their own uniforms and were denied military discharges until  
18 1979, long after most of these veterans had passed away; and

19 WHEREAS, The auxiliary units were disbanded following World  
20 War I until 1941 and, in 1943, were granted official military  
21 status in the Women's Army Corps (WACs), Women Accepted for  
22 Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), the United States Navy and  
23 the Marine Corps Women's Reserve; and

24 WHEREAS, With the passage of the Women's Armed Services  
25 Integration Act of 1948, women were finally allowed to serve as  
26 permanent members of the military and granted entitlement to  
27 veteran benefits; and

28 WHEREAS, More than 200,000 women, comprising approximately  
29 10% of all service personnel, including dozens of female  
30 generals and admirals, are fully integrated throughout all

1 branches of the armed forces of the United States, including  
2 combat components; and

3 WHEREAS, Throughout the long restrictions on their  
4 opportunity to serve, women did so despite injury, privation,  
5 imprisonment and death, from the death of Jemima Warner of  
6 Thompson's Pennsylvania Rifle Battalion at the siege of Quebec  
7 in 1775, through that of Army Specialist Lori Piestewa, who died  
8 after being captured by Iraqi forces during Operation Iraqi  
9 Freedom; and

10 WHEREAS, One in ten living veterans is a female veteran; and

11 WHEREAS, More than 71,000 Pennsylvania residents are female  
12 veterans; and

13 WHEREAS, After service, female veterans continue to face  
14 largely unrecognized challenges: one in four female veterans  
15 seeking VA medical care has experienced sexual assault and  
16 female veterans have a 400% greater risk of homelessness than  
17 their male peers do; and

18 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Commission for Women has asked the  
19 Senate and the House of Representatives to join in recognizing  
20 the service and sacrifices of Pennsylvania women in the  
21 interests of our nation; and

22 WHEREAS, The selflessness and bravery of women in keeping our  
23 Commonwealth and our country safe and in protecting our freedoms  
24 should not go unnoted or be diminished; and

25 WHEREAS, The courageous and dutiful efforts of women in the  
26 service of our Commonwealth and of our country should be called  
27 to the attention of all Pennsylvanians; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate March 29, 2017, as  
29 "Female Veterans Recognition Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
30 further

1       RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all Pennsylvanians to  
2 join in recognizing, appreciating and saluting the service and  
3 sacrifices of more than 71,000 female veterans who live in  
4 Pennsylvania.