
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2361 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY PENNYCUICK, HENNESSEY, POLINCHOCK, HAMM, MIHALEK,
HILL-EVANS, KULIK, M. MACKENZIE, R. MACKENZIE, GUENST,
HOHENSTEIN, KINSEY, SCHMITT, LONGIETTI, JAMES, O'MARA,
MENTZER, MILLARD, GILLEN, ROZZI, PICKETT, GUZMAN, INNAMORATO,
DRISCOLL, WEBSTER AND FARRY, MARCH 8, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 8, 2022

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in veteran recognition, providing for
3 Women Veterans Day.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 38 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 1304. Women Veterans Day.

9 (a) Legislative findings and declarations.--The General
10 Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) While women have served in the American military
12 since before we became a nation, they were not officially
13 recognized as military members or veterans until 1948.

14 (2) Women were originally relegated to serving in the
15 civilian fields of nursing, laundering, mending clothing and
16 cooking.

1 (3) Despite this segregation, many women served in war
2 zones alongside their male compatriots, including some women
3 who dressed as men during the Civil War to fight on the front
4 lines.

5 (4) The first woman to enlist in the United States Armed
6 Forces was Loretta Walsh, who enlisted in the Navy in 1917.

7 (5) During World War I, approximately 35,000 women in
8 the United States officially served as nurses and support
9 staff.

10 (6) During World War II, approximately 400,000 women in
11 the United States served in support positions, including
12 140,000 women who served in the Women's Army Corps performing
13 critical jobs, such as military intelligence, cryptography
14 and parachute rigging.

15 (7) Nearly 500 women were killed by enemy fire during
16 World War II.

17 (8) The first Women Veterans Day was held on June 12,
18 2018, marking the 70th anniversary of the groundbreaking
19 Women's Armed Services Integration Act (Public Law 80-625, 62
20 Stat. 356), signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on
21 June 12, 1948.

22 (9) That Federal law enabled women to serve as
23 permanent, regular members of the United States Army, Marine
24 Corps, Navy and the recently formed Air Force.

25 (10) Throughout the years, the role of women continues
26 to grow in all branches and phases of operations of the
27 United States Armed Forces.

28 (11) Currently, women serve freely alongside men in any
29 branch or role they desire and comprise a substantial portion
30 of new recruits, active duty members and reserve components

1 of the United States Armed Forces.

2 (12) Women Veterans Day is not considered a separate day
3 for only women veterans, but a tribute to a groundbreaking
4 day when women were acknowledged as essential to the war
5 effort and could serve as permanent, regular members of
6 the United States Armed Forces.

7 (b) Designation.--June 12 of each year is designated as
8 Women Veterans Day in this Commonwealth.

9 (c) Proclamation.--The Governor shall issue annually a
10 proclamation encouraging residents of this Commonwealth to
11 observe Women Veterans Day and recognize the contributions of
12 all women veterans and the sacrifices they made.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.