

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

Designating the third full week of March, in 2018 and in each succeeding year, as Women Veterans Week in Virginia.

Agreed to by the Senate, March 7, 2018

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 6, 2018

WHEREAS, throughout the history of the United States, during times of peace and of war, women have served honorably in the military, upholding the nation's ideals and protecting freedom through dedication to duty and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, while women were not formally part of the United States Armed Forces until the inception of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, they have served in an unofficial capacity dating back to the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, during the American Revolution, the Mexican-American War, and the Civil War, women disguised themselves as men and served alongside their brothers and husbands on the front lines; off the battlefield, women made vital contributions to the war effort as nurses, couriers, and spies; and

WHEREAS, around 35,000 American women served as nurses and support staff in World War I, and during World War II, some 350,000 women served with the Women's Army Corps, the Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, the Coast Guard Women's Reserve, and the Women Airforce Service Pilots; and

WHEREAS, Congress made women a permanent part of the military with the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948, but until 1967, it limited the proportion of women in each branch of the military; and

WHEREAS, women nurses served on ships and in combat zones during the Korean War, and during the Vietnam War, thousands of female military personnel were deployed to Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, with the transition to an all-volunteer military in 1973, women experienced a dramatic increase in opportunity in the military, including leadership positions; and

WHEREAS, more than 40,000 women participated in the Gulf War, and since September 11, 2001, over 300,000 women have served in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the United States Department of Defense opened all previously closed combat roles to women service members; women patrol war zones, fly combat aircraft, and command ships at sea; and

WHEREAS, today, there are over two million women veterans in the United States; women are the fastest growing segment of the veteran community and make up roughly 10 percent of all American veterans; and

WHEREAS, Virginia is home to more than 100,000 women veterans who have distinguished themselves both on and off the battlefield, and they continue to serve their communities as leaders in both the public and private sectors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly designate the third full week of March, in 2018 and in each succeeding year, as Women Veterans Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Department of Veterans Services so that members of the agency may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the Senate post the designation of this week on the General Assembly's website.

ENROLLED

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