

By: Nelson, et al.

S.C.R. No. 16

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Each year, Americans pause during the month of March
2 to pay special tribute to the contributions that women have made to
3 our national life, and outstanding among the myriad roles that
4 women have assumed over the course of this country's history have
5 been those undertaken as part of the nation's armed forces; and

6 WHEREAS, Long before they gained regular admission to the
7 military, thousands of women assisted the uniformed branches in a
8 variety of ways; they worked as nurses, water bearers, laundresses,
9 and cooks, sometimes served as spies and saboteurs, and on occasion
10 even took up arms; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1901, the United States Army broke new ground by
12 creating an actual nurses corps, and the navy followed in 1908; the
13 ranks of these units swelled during World War I, when nearly 23,000
14 women served as nurses with the American military; the U.S. Navy and
15 Marine Corps enlisted nearly 13,000 additional women as yeomen and
16 reservists and assigned them to duty stateside, to free their male
17 counterparts for combat at sea and abroad; and

18 WHEREAS, The participation of women in the military surged
19 during World War II, with more than 400,000 filling posts at home
20 and overseas; to more fully utilize their abilities, the army
21 established the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later known as the
22 Women's Army Corps and commanded with consummate ability by the
23 Texan Oveta Culp Hobby; the army also created the WASP (Women
24 Airforce Service Pilots), while the navy organized the WAVES (Women

1 Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), the Marine Corps
2 established the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, and the Coast Guard
3 created a reserve unit known as the SPARs; in spite of widespread
4 misgivings about their suitability for the work, women proved
5 themselves in a wide array of assignments, and in 1948 an Act of
6 Congress granted them permanent status in the regular and reserve
7 forces; and

8 WHEREAS, Barriers to the participation of women in the
9 military continued to fall; legal provisions placing a two percent
10 cap on the number of women serving and a ceiling on the highest
11 grade a woman could achieve were repealed in 1967; by 1972, the
12 various ROTC programs were opened to women, and in 1976 women were
13 admitted to the service academies; they are now eligible to enter
14 more than 90 percent of all career fields in the armed forces; and

15 WHEREAS, Women have continued to deploy in times of conflict:
16 some 1,000 served in theater during the Korean War and 7,500 during
17 the Vietnam War; hundreds saw duty in operations in Central America
18 in the 1980s, and in 1991, 41,000 women served in theater in
19 Operation Desert Storm; and

20 WHEREAS, Today, approximately 344,500 women are serving in
21 the U.S. military; they constitute about 14 percent of active duty
22 personnel and about 10 percent of the American forces in Iraq and
23 Afghanistan; and

24 WHEREAS, The operations focused on those two countries have
25 placed enormous demands on all who have taken part; like their male
26 compatriots, many women have served multiple tours, and large
27 numbers have been injured, many grievously; as of mid-January 2011,

1 136 women had given their lives in those two wars; and

2 WHEREAS, The increased involvement of women in the military
3 is reflected by the number of women veterans, which now totals 1.8
4 million; Texas is home to more than 150,000 women veterans, the
5 second highest number of any state in the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, Texans have always honored the selflessness and
7 sacrifice of those who perform military service, and these women
8 are indeed worthy of that recognition; it is also fitting that needs
9 they have incurred in connection with that service be acknowledged
10 and alleviated, whether they concern physical or psychological
11 wounds or the challenges of caring for their families or
12 reintegrating into civilian life; and

13 WHEREAS, The women who have served in the United States armed
14 forces have demonstrated tenacity, courage, and professionalism,
15 and they are deserving of their fellow citizens' deepest gratitude
16 and unfailing support; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby designate the month of March each year from 2011 through 2020
19 as Women Veterans Month in tribute to the immeasurable
20 contributions that women in the military have made to this nation.