

1-1 By: Nelson, Davis, Huffman, Shapiro S.C.R. No. 16
1-2 Van de Putte, Zaffirini
1-3 (In the Senate - Filed February 11, 2011; February 17, 2011,
1-4 read first time and referred to Committee on Administration;
1-5 March 16, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
1-6 Nays 0; March 16, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-7 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, Each year, Americans pause during the month of March
1-9 to pay special tribute to the contributions that women have made to
1-10 our national life, and outstanding among the myriad roles that
1-11 women have assumed over the course of this country's history have
1-12 been those undertaken as part of the nation's armed forces; and

1-13 WHEREAS, Long before they gained regular admission to the
1-14 military, thousands of women assisted the uniformed branches in a
1-15 variety of ways; they worked as nurses, water bearers, laundresses,
1-16 and cooks, sometimes served as spies and saboteurs, and on occasion
1-17 even took up arms; and

1-18 WHEREAS, In 1901, the United States Army broke new ground by
1-19 creating an actual nurses corps, and the navy followed in 1908; the
1-20 ranks of these units swelled during World War I, when nearly 23,000
1-21 women served as nurses with the American military; the United
1-22 States Navy and Marine Corps enlisted nearly 13,000 additional
1-23 women as yeomen and reservists and assigned them to duty stateside,
1-24 to free their male counterparts for combat at sea and abroad; and

1-25 WHEREAS, The participation of women in the military surged
1-26 during World War II, with more than 400,000 filling posts at home
1-27 and overseas; to more fully utilize their abilities, the army
1-28 established the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later known as the
1-29 Women's Army Corps and commanded with consummate ability by the
1-30 Texan Oveta Culp Hobby; the army also created the WASP (Women
1-31 Airforce Service Pilots), while the navy organized the WAVES (Women
1-32 Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), the Marine Corps
1-33 established the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, and the Coast Guard
1-34 created a reserve unit known as the SPARs; in spite of widespread
1-35 misgivings about their suitability for the work, women proved
1-36 themselves in a wide array of assignments, and in 1948 an Act of
1-37 Congress granted them permanent status in the regular and reserve
1-38 forces; and

1-39 WHEREAS, Barriers to the participation of women in the
1-40 military continued to fall; legal provisions placing a two percent
1-41 cap on the number of women serving and a ceiling on the highest
1-42 grade a woman could achieve were repealed in 1967; by 1972, the
1-43 various Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs were opened to
1-44 women, and in 1976 women were admitted to the service academies;
1-45 they are now eligible to enter more than 90 percent of all career
1-46 fields in the armed forces; and

1-47 WHEREAS, Women have continued to deploy in times of conflict:
1-48 some 1,000 served in theater during the Korean War and 7,500 during
1-49 the Vietnam War; hundreds saw duty in operations in Central America
1-50 in the 1980s, and in 1991, 41,000 women served in theater in
1-51 Operation Desert Storm; and

1-52 WHEREAS, Today, approximately 344,500 women are serving in
1-53 the United States military; they constitute about 14 percent of
1-54 active duty personnel and about 10 percent of the American forces in
1-55 Iraq and Afghanistan; and

1-56 WHEREAS, The operations focused on those two countries have
1-57 placed enormous demands on all who have taken part; like their male
1-58 compatriots, many women have served multiple tours, and large
1-59 numbers have been injured, many grievously; as of mid-January 2011,
1-60 136 women had given their lives in those two wars; and

1-61 WHEREAS, The increased involvement of women in the military
1-62 is reflected by the number of women veterans, which now totals 1.8
1-63 million; Texas is home to more than 150,000 women veterans, the
1-64 second highest number of any state in the nation; and

2-1 WHEREAS, Texans have always honored the selflessness and
2-2 sacrifice of those who perform military service, and these women
2-3 are indeed worthy of that recognition; it is also fitting that needs
2-4 they have incurred in connection with that service be acknowledged
2-5 and alleviated, whether they concern physical or psychological
2-6 wounds or the challenges of caring for their families or
2-7 reintegrating into civilian life; and

2-8 WHEREAS, The women who have served in the United States armed
2-9 forces have demonstrated tenacity, courage, and professionalism,
2-10 and they are deserving of their fellow citizens' deepest gratitude
2-11 and unfailing support; now, therefore, be it

2-12 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
2-13 hereby designate the month of March each year from 2011 through 2020
2-14 as Women Veterans Month in tribute to the immeasurable
2-15 contributions that women in the military have made to this nation.

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