

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 1803

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Texas are gathering at the State  
2 Capitol on May 1, 2013, to commemorate Texas Women's Veterans Day,  
3 and this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to  
4 the immeasurable contributions that women have made as part of our  
5 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 an 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11 grade a woman could achieve were repealed in 1967; by 1972, the  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 nearly all career fields in the armed forces; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, women make up approximately 15 percent of our  
16 nation's military; they account for 7.7 percent of the veteran  
17 population, and by 2020 that proportion is expected to reach 10  
18 percent; and

19 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is proud to be home to the second  
20 largest number of women veterans in the country, and these  
21 courageous individuals are deserving of their fellow citizens'  
22 deepest gratitude and unfailing support; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
24 Legislature hereby recognize May 1, 2013, as Texas Women's Veterans  
25 Day at the State Capitol in honor of the many women from the Lone  
26 Star State who have served this country as members of the military.