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By:  Meza H.R. No. 407

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The observance of Women's History Month in March 2021 provides a fitting opportunity to honor the women who serve as state troopers in the Texas Department of Public Safety and as members of the Texas National Guard, particularly those who have protected the Capitol Complex during the turbulent events of 2020 and 2021; and

WHEREAS, DPS operates a permanent command at the Texas Capitol, and its law enforcement officers are tasked with maintaining security at the building and in the surrounding area; since the spring of 2020, the increased threat of violent unrest focused on the statehouse has necessitated the assignment of additional DPS officers and the deployment of Texas National Guard troops to safeguard the complex; and

WHEREAS, In carrying out this important mission, both DPS and the Texas National Guard have relied on the contributions of the many women who serve as part of their uniformed personnel; arriving in Austin from points throughout the state, they and their fellow service members have been forced to endure extended periods away from home and to work long hours in dangerous and stressful conditions; and

WHEREAS, Women have become increasingly prominent in both organizations in recent decades, taking on responsibilities throughout the chain of command; this development is perhaps best exemplified by Major General Tracy Norris, who commands the Texas National Guard in her role as the 52nd Adjutant General for the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, During an unprecedented time in our state's history, skilled women serving with DPS and the Texas National Guard have worked tirelessly to protect the Texas Capitol and to ensure the security of all who work in the Capitol Complex, and they are indeed deserving of our deepest and most heartfelt appreciation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend the women of the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas National Guard who have helped protect the Texas Capitol in 2020 and 2021 and extend to them sincere best wishes on the occasion of Women's History Month.