

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Joint Resolution 11 (Delegates Sample-Hughes and Patterson)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Women Veterans Day

This joint resolution designates March 13 as Women Veterans Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with the joint resolution does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Sixteen official commemorative days, six months, and one week are recognized in State law, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The Governor also must issue a proclamation each year encouraging citizens and other individuals to observe a moment of silence at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day to unite in remembrance and commemorate the heroic acts and efforts of Marylanders who have served and died in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Background: According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), as of January 2019, eight states (Alaska, California, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas) and Puerto Rico have designated a Women Veterans Day or Women Veterans Month. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in 2016, women veterans represented approximately 9% of the U.S. veteran population and approximately 13% of Maryland's veteran population.

Women have served in wars and conflicts throughout U.S. history, beginning with the Revolutionary War, and have served formally in the military since the establishment of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901. The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 granted women permanent status in the military. Since then, federal legislation has been enacted to expand opportunities for women in the military and women's access to veterans benefits.

NCSL reports that women represent approximately 20% of new recruits, 15% of active duty military members, and 18% of the guard and reserve forces.

Exhibit 1
Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Asian Lunar New Year Day ¹ | January/February |
| Black History Month | February |
| Irish-American Heritage Month | March |
| Women's History Month | March |
| Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day | March 30 |
| Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day | April 3 |
| John Hanson's Birthday ² | April 13 |
| National Healthcare Decisions Day | April 16 |
| Maryland Centenarians Day ³ | May |
| Negro Baseball League Day ⁴ | May |
| Law Day U.S.A. | May 1 |
| Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁵ | June |
| Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week ⁶ | June |
| Juneteenth National Freedom Day | June 19 |
| Maryland Charter Day | June 20 |
| Thurgood Marshall Day | July 2 |
| Hispanic Heritage Month ⁷ | September/October |
| German-American Heritage Month | October |
| South Asian American Heritage Day | October 2 |
| Poetry Day | October 15 |
| American Indian Heritage Month | November |
| Maryland Emancipation Day | November 1 |
| Annapolis Charter Day | December 17 |

¹Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

²John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

³Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁴Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁵Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁶Commemorated during the second week in June.

⁷Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): National Conference of State Legislatures; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/lgc

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