
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 50 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, COSTA, BAKER, TARTAGLIONE, FARNESE,
FONTANA, DINNIMAN, KILLION, BROWNE, COLLETT, BARTOLOTTA,
FOLMER, SANTARSIERO, BREWSTER, STREET, HUTCHINSON, HUGHES,
J. WARD, AUMENT, K. WARD AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 25, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 25, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 27, 2019, as "Female Veterans Recognition Day"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, 2019 marks the 71st anniversary of the full
4 acceptance of women as members of the United States Armed
5 Forces; and

6 WHEREAS, The history of women's service in our nation's
7 military ranks predates its founding; and

8 WHEREAS, The month of March is recognized nationally as
9 "Women's History Month" each year; and

10 WHEREAS, During the American Revolutionary War, women like
11 Margaret Corbin and Mary "Molly Pitcher" McCauley replaced their
12 fallen husbands in the battle lines, and many more, like Ann
13 Simpson Davis, who carried messages and supplies through enemy
14 lines, faced duty and sacrifice in other ways; and

15 WHEREAS, During the Civil War, wounded and dying troops found
16 care and aid from women like Clara Barton, Louisa May Alcott and
17 thousands of other less familiar women who diligently nursed

1 them in makeshift battlefield hospitals and institutional
2 facilities alike; and

3 WHEREAS, Women of color, like Cathay Williams, freed or
4 escaped from enslavement, enlisted in the Civil War and fought
5 in the ranks by concealing their gender and serving with neither
6 commendation nor formal acknowledgment; and

7 WHEREAS, Women were first openly recruited to serve alongside
8 regular military units during the First World War, serving in
9 clerical and technical capacities and as military nurses at home
10 and in the battlefields of France; and

11 WHEREAS, Women serving during World War I still were required
12 not only to pay for their uniforms but also denied formal
13 recognition of their military service by being kept ineligible
14 for military discharges until long after most died; and

15 WHEREAS, Official military status was first obtained by women
16 during the Second World War in 1943 with the establishment of
17 the still gender-distinct Women's Army Corps (Army WAC), Women
18 Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (Navy WAVES), Semper
19 Paratus Always Ready (Coast Guard SPARs) and the Navy and Marine
20 Corps Women's Reserve; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1948, women were finally fully integrated into
22 the United States military with enactment of the Women's Armed
23 Services Integration Act, which law for the first time also
24 granted to women veteran benefits and privileges of service; and

25 WHEREAS, Today, women and men regularly and routinely serve
26 alongside one another in every rank, branch and component of the
27 United States military, with approximately 200,000 women service
28 members representing roughly 1 in every 10 active military
29 personnel; and

30 WHEREAS, One in ten veterans today is a female, including

1 more than 71,000 of whom we are honored to have call
2 Pennsylvania their home; and

3 WHEREAS, Female military members and veterans continue to
4 face special challenges during and after service based on their
5 gender, notably including sexual assault, which one in four
6 female veterans seeking medical care from the Veterans
7 Administration report having experienced, and a higher risk than
8 male veterans of becoming homeless; and

9 WHEREAS, The competence, commitment and courage that women
10 have displayed, currently display and assuredly will continue to
11 display for our nation and for our Commonwealth should be
12 uplifted before all Pennsylvanians to recognize and acknowledge;
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate March 27, 2019, as
15 "Female Veterans Recognition Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all residents of this
18 Commonwealth to join in recognizing and saluting the service and
19 sacrifices of Pennsylvania's women veterans.