

2015-K664

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 12, 2015, as Women Veterans Recognition Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Sixty-seven years ago, on June 12, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed into law the Women's Armed Services Act of 1948 (P.L. 625-80th Congress); this law insured that women would have a permanent place in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines; and

WHEREAS, The late Senator Margaret Chase Smith from Maine authorized the legislation that President Truman signed; the Act remains the most significant legislation pertaining to women's military service and is the cornerstone for policies and regulations affecting women; and

WHEREAS, Women veterans have always answered the call to duty, serving with integrity and respect; and

WHEREAS, Since 2001, more than 200,000 women have served in the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan; women currently make up more than 15% of the Army; and

WHEREAS, Women from New York who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States have made countless contributions and tremendous sacrifices during times of war; and

WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the contributions of New York women veterans and educate the people of New York concerning the role of women during wartime since this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, New Yorkers serving in the military continue to demonstrate their professionalism, dedication, and skills, as well as the patriotism and love for their country and the liberties, freedoms, and rights it stands for as they mobilize in record numbers to support Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, and the Global War on Terrorism; and

WHEREAS, From 1973 to 2013, the number of active-duty enlisted women in the military has grown from about 42,000 to 167,000; the percentage of women among the enlisted ranks has increased seven-fold, from 2% to 14%, and the share among commissioned officers has quadrupled, from 4% to 16%; and

WHEREAS, Among the Armed Forces, there are over 63,800 women veterans in the United States military from the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 12 years, there have been over 650 women wounded in war and approximately 139 women casualties of war; and

WHEREAS, Women have served this country in uniform - whether veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, the current Global War on Terrorism and peacetime service, and have earned our respect and thanks; and

WHEREAS, Women Veterans Recognition Day is a living estuary to the courage of so many; from its broad base of shared concern and responsive endeavor, there yet emanates the current of valiant tradition and the irrepressible tide of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Through its avowed commitment to those who have served in the cause of America's Freedom, Women Veterans Recognition Day does so unselfishly advance the spirit of the united purpose and shared concern which is the unalterable manifestation of our American experience; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the bravery, patriotism and sacrifice made by women, both those still living and those who died in service of our great country; and most proudly commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the signing of the Women's Armed Forces Service Act of 1948, which later came to be known as Women Veterans Recognition Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause further to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 12, 2015, as Women Veterans Recognition Day in the State of New York, fully confident that such

procedure mirrors our shared commitment to preserve, to ensure and to yet effect that patrimony of freedom which is our American Heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.