

2015-K1481

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 12, 2016, as Women Veterans Recognition Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Sixty-eight 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 ensured 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 The United States of America with integrity and respect; and

WHEREAS, Women make up nearly 15% of today's active duty military; 19.5% of the United States Guard and United States Reserve forces are women; 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 in our military including during wartime since this nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, Women serving in the military continue to demonstrate their professionalism, dedication, leadership, and skills, as well as the patriotism and love for their country and 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, Operation Inherent Resolve and the Global War on Terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Among the Armed Forces, there are over 66,000 women veterans in the United States military from the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 14 years there have been over 650 women wounded in war and approximately 137 women who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait lost their lives in 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, have earned our respect and thanks; and

WHEREAS, In 1998 the State of New York dedicated The New York State Women Veterans Memorial located in Albany, New York, to honor the 1.2 million women in military service over the past 200 years; and

WHEREAS, In January 2013, an announcement was made by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta that the military would be lifting the policy against women in combat roles; and

WHEREAS, In April 2013, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs launched a new hotline to respond to questions from women veterans, and families and caregivers of veterans, about the services and resources the Department of Veterans Affairs offers for women veterans; and

WHEREAS, The first woman to serve aboard a Navy fast-attack submarine reported to duty on the USS Minnesota in January 2015; and

WHEREAS, Women are projected to make-up close to 18% of the total United States veteran population by 2040; and

WHEREAS, A woman first rose to the rank of a four-star general in 2008, now retired General Ann Dunwoody who lead the U.S. Army Materiel Command; she was followed by three other females with the rank of four

stars, including General Ellen M. Pawlikowski, Commander of Air Force Materiel Command, Navy Admiral Michelle Howard, who is the Vice Chief of Naval Operations and Air Force General Lori Robinson became the mili-

tary's first female Combatant Commander on Friday, May 13, 2016, when she assumed responsibility for U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense; and

WHEREAS, In a recent survey conducted by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Inc. only 15% of the respondents believe the American people understand the contributions of military women; 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 68th 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 to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim, Sunday June 12, 2016 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 copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and Colonel Eric J. Hesse, (Ret.), Director of the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs.