

## **H. Res. 41**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*November 10, 1999.*

Whereas during World War II women in the United States were recruited into the Armed Forces to perform military assignments so that men could be freed for combat duties;

Whereas, despite social stigmas and public opinion averse to women in uniform, women applied for military service in such numbers that enrollment ceilings were reached within the first several years;

Whereas during World War II women served in the Army in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and the Women's Army Corps (WAC);

Whereas these women served the Army by performing a variety of duties traditionally performed by men;

Whereas in 1943 the Army removed the auxiliary status of the WAAC units, in unspoken recognition of the value of their services;

Whereas almost one-half of World War II WACs served in the Army Air Forces as officers and enlisted personnel, with duties including such flying jobs as radio operator, photographer, and flight clerk;

Whereas 7,315 of these Army Air Forces WACs were serving overseas in all theaters of war in January 1945;

Whereas General Eisenhower stated, “During the time I have had WACs under my command they have met every test and task assigned to them; their contributions in efficiency, skill, spirit, and determination are immeasurable”;

Whereas at the end of the war 657 women were honored for their service in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps and the Women’s Army Corps, receiving medals and citations including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal, the Soldiers’ Medal for heroic action, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star;

Whereas in 1946 the Army requested that Congress establish the Women’s Army Corp as a permanent part of the Army, perhaps the single greatest indication of the value of women in the Army to the war effort;

Whereas during World War II women served with the Army Air Forces in the Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), the Women’s Flying Training Detachment (WFTD), and the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs);

Whereas women serving with the Army Air Forces ferried planes from factories to airfields, performed test flights of repaired aircraft, towed targets used in live gunnery practice by male pilots, and performed a variety of other duties traditionally performed by men;

Whereas women pilots flew more than 70 types of military aircraft, from open-cockpit primary trainers to P-51 Mustangs, B-26 Marauders, and B-29 Superfortresses;

Whereas from September 10, 1942, to December 20, 1944, 1,074 WASPs flew an aggregate 60,000,000 miles in wartime service;

Whereas, although WASPs were promised military classification, they were classified as civilians and the 38 WASPs who died in the line of duty were buried without military honors;

Whereas WASPs did not receive official status as military veterans until March 1979, when WASP units were formally recognized as components of the Air Force;

Whereas during World War II women in the Navy served in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES);

Whereas approximately 90,000 WAVES served the Navy in a variety of capacities and in such numbers that, according to a Navy estimate, enough men were freed for combat duty to crew the ships of four major task forces, each including a battleship, two large aircraft carriers, two heavy cruisers, four light cruisers, and 15 destroyers;

Whereas WAVES who served in naval aviation taught instrument flying, aircraft recognition, celestial navigation, aircraft gunnery, radio, radar, air combat information, and air fighter administration, but were not allowed to be pilots;

Whereas, at the end of the war, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal stated that members of the WAVES “have exceeded performance of men in certain types of work, and the Navy Department considers it to be very desirable that these important services rendered by women during the war should likewise be available in postwar years ahead”;

Whereas during World War II women served in the Marine Corps in the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve;

Whereas more than 23,000 women served at shore establishments of the Marine Corps, and by the end of the war, 85 percent of the enlisted personnel assigned to Headquarters, Marine Corps were women;

Whereas during the war women were assigned to over 200 different specialties in the Marine Corps, and by performing these duties freed men for active duty to fight;

Whereas during World War II women served in the Coast Guard in the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARs);

Whereas more than 10,000 women volunteered for service with the Coast Guard during the period from 1942 through 1946, and when the Coast Guard was at the peak of its strength during the war, one out of every 16 members of the Coast Guard was a SPAR;

Whereas the SPARs who attended the Coast Guard Academy were the first women in the United States to attend a military academy, and by filling shore jobs for the Coast Guard SPARs freed men to serve elsewhere;

Whereas by the end of World War II more than 400,000 women had served the United States in military capacities;

Whereas these women, despite their merit and the recognized value and importance of their contributions to the war effort, were not given status equal to their male counterparts and struggled for years to receive the appreciation of the Congress and the people of the United States;

Whereas these women helped to catalyze the social, demographic, and economic evolutions that occurred in the 1960's and 1970's and continue to this day; and

Whereas these pioneering women are owed a great debt of gratitude for their service to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This resolution may be cited as the “Honoring American Military Women for Their Service in World War II Resolution”.

**SEC. 2. COMMENDATION AND RECOGNITION OF WOMEN WHO SERVED THE UNITED STATES IN MILITARY CAPACITIES DURING WORLD WAR II.**

The House of Representatives—

(1) honors the women who served the United States in military capacities during World War II;

(2) commends these women who, through a sense of duty and willingness to defy stereotypes and social pressures, performed military assignments to aid the war effort, with the result that men were freed for combat duties; and

(3) recognizes that these women, by serving with diligence and merit, not only opened up opportunities for women that had previously been reserved for men, but

also contributed vitally to the victory of the United States and the Allies in World War II.

Attest:

*Clerk.*