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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 305 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, WOZNIAK, SABATINA, DINNIMAN, TEPLITZ,  
BROWNE, HUTCHINSON, BREWSTER, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF,  
VULAKOVICH, COSTA, KITCHEN, FONTANA, WARD, YUDICHAK,  
TARTAGLIONE AND HUGHES, MARCH 21, 2016

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 21, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 30, 2016, as "Female Veterans Recognition Day"  
2 in Pennsylvania and encouraging all Pennsylvanians to join in  
3 recognizing, appreciating and saluting the service and  
4 sacrifices of more than 71,000 female veterans who live in  
5 Pennsylvania.

6 WHEREAS, Women have a long, courageous and largely  
7 unrecognized history of military service to our country; and

8 WHEREAS, At the founding of our nation, women provided  
9 important support services as nurses, cooks, laundresses and  
10 clerks for the troops, and heroically stepped up to the front  
11 lines, or risked their lives in other ways; and

12 WHEREAS, Margaret Corbin and Mary "Molly Pitcher" McCauley  
13 manned their fallen husbands' cannons at the battles of Fort  
14 Washington and Monmouth and Ann Simpson Davis carried supplies  
15 and messages across enemy lines during the southeastern  
16 Pennsylvania campaign of the War of Independence; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout the history of our nation, women such as  
18 Clara Barton, who cared for the wounded and dying from Antietam

1 to Andersonville during the Civil War, and Cathay Williams, who,  
2 freed from slavery during the Civil War, dressed as a man to  
3 serve two years as an infantry soldier, and thousands more  
4 women, whose names are unknown to history, have in every  
5 conflict served our national interests largely without official  
6 recognition and commendation; and

7 WHEREAS, With America's approach and entry into World War I,  
8 for the first time women were recruited to serve in auxiliary  
9 military units and 14,000 women responded to free troops for  
10 combat by serving in noncombat duties such as clerks and radio  
11 electricians while 21,000 more women served in the Army Nurse  
12 Corps at camps and hospitals here and overseas; and

13 WHEREAS, Women's services nonetheless continued to be  
14 regarded in a subordinate position: hundreds of women who served  
15 in the Army Signal Corps were required to purchase their own  
16 uniforms and were denied military discharges until 1979, long  
17 after most of these veterans had passed away; and

18 WHEREAS, The auxiliary units were disbanded following World  
19 War I until 1941 and in 1943 were granted official military  
20 status in the Women's Army Corps (WACs), Women Accepted for  
21 Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), the Navy and the Marine  
22 Corps Women's Reserve; and

23 WHEREAS, With the passage of the Women's Armed Services  
24 Integration Act of 1948, women were finally allowed to serve as  
25 permanent members of the military and granted entitlement to  
26 veteran benefits; and

27 WHEREAS, Today more than 200,000 women, comprising about 10%  
28 of all service personnel, including dozens of female generals  
29 and admirals, are fully integrated throughout all branches of  
30 the armed forces, including combat components; and

1       WHEREAS, Throughout the long restrictions on their  
2 opportunity to serve, women did so despite injury, privation,  
3 imprisonment and death, from the death of Jemima Warner of  
4 Thompson's Pennsylvania Rifle Battalion at the siege of Quebec  
5 in 1775, through that of Army Specialist Lori Piestewa, who died  
6 after being captured by Iraqi forces during Operation Iraqi  
7 Freedom; and

8       WHEREAS, One in ten living veterans is a female veteran; and

9       WHEREAS, More than 71,000 Pennsylvania residents are female  
10 veterans; and

11       WHEREAS, After service, female veterans continue to face  
12 largely unrecognized challenges: one in four female veterans  
13 seeking VA medical care has experienced sexual assault and  
14 female veterans have a 400% greater risk of homelessness than  
15 their male peers do; and

16       WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Commission for Women has asked the  
17 Senate and House of Representatives to join in recognizing the  
18 service and sacrifices of Pennsylvania women in the interests of  
19 our nation; and

20       WHEREAS, The selflessness and bravery of women in keeping our  
21 Commonwealth and our country safe and in protecting our freedoms  
22 should not go unnoted or be diminished; and

23       WHEREAS, The courageous and dutiful efforts of women in the  
24 service of our Commonwealth and of our country should be called  
25 to the attention of all Pennsylvanians; therefore be it

26       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate March 30, 2016, as  
27 "Female Veterans Recognition Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
28 further

29       RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all Pennsylvanians to  
30 join in recognizing, appreciating and saluting the service and

1 sacrifices of more than 71,000 female veterans who live in  
2 Pennsylvania.