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A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES
MILITARY SERVICE.

WHEREAS, women have been involved in the United States
military since the beginning of the Revolutionary War in
1775, originally in the fields of nursing, laundering,
mending clothing and cooking; and

WHEREAS, during the American Civil War, women served in
a variety of roles, including nurses, cooks and spies and
soldiers disguised as men; and

WHEREAS, Mary Edwards Walker became the first and only
woman to receive the medal of honor for her service during
the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS, during World War I, women served as nurses and
support staff, and Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee, United States navy
nurse corps superintendent, received the navy cross for her
service; and

WHEREAS, more than three hundred fifty thousand women
served as mechanics, pilots, clerks, nurses and ambulance
drivers during World War II, while hundreds of others served
as field intelligence agents; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, congress passed the Women's Armed
Services Integration Act, permitting women to serve as
permanent members of the military, when, prior to the act,

1 women only served in times of war; and

2 WHEREAS, some one hundred twenty thousand women in the
3 United States were on active duty during the Korean conflict,
4 with the majority serving as nurses; and

5 WHEREAS, although relatively little official data exists
6 about female Vietnam conflict veterans, the Vietnam women's
7 memorial foundation estimates that approximately eleven
8 thousand military women were deployed to Vietnam, ninety
9 percent of whom served as military nurses; and

10 WHEREAS, servicewomen serving during Operation Desert
11 Shield and Operation Desert Storm were the largest deployment
12 of military women in United States history, with more than
13 forty thousand women deployed; and

14 WHEREAS, in January 2013, the United States ended the
15 policy of barring women from units that were tasked with
16 direct combat, and in 2016, all combat jobs were opened to
17 women; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2016, the first female soldiers became
19 infantry soldiers; and

20 WHEREAS, also in 2016, United States Air Force General
21 Lori Robinson took over as leader of the United States
22 northern command, becoming the first female service member to
23 lead a unified combatant command and thus the highest-ranking
24 woman in the United States military; and

25 WHEREAS, in January 2017, the first three female marines

1 graduated from infantry school; and

2 WHEREAS, in June 2012, female enlisted sailors deployed
3 on submarines for the first time ever; and

4 WHEREAS, women continued to make strides in the military
5 as firsts to command navy ships, command a United States air
6 force fighter squadron, achieve four-star officer rank and
7 establish female engagement teams; and

8 WHEREAS, today, the United States military has opened
9 all positions to women, as long as the qualifying
10 requirements are met; and

11 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, as of 2016, there were one
12 hundred forty-two thousand one hundred eighty-seven veterans
13 living in the state, according to a workforce solutions
14 department 2018 veterans profile; and

15 WHEREAS, of the total, there were twelve thousand six
16 hundred seventeen female veterans, or eight and nine-tenths
17 percent of all veterans; and

18 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, women made up five and seven-
19 tenths percent of veterans age sixty-five years or older in
20 2016; and

21 WHEREAS, women face considerable challenges during and
22 after military service, and women veterans are entitled to
23 the same veterans' benefits as men, as well as some that are
24 tailored to the particular needs of female veterans; and

25 WHEREAS, resources such as the university of New Mexico

1 veterans resource center and women veterans of New Mexico are
2 available to female soldiers and veterans, offering support
3 networks and safety nets; and

4 WHEREAS, a tribute to women in the military will be held
5 March 1, 2019 at American legion post forty-nine in
6 Albuquerque; and

7 WHEREAS, the tribute to women in the military honors all
8 military women, past, present and future, and is open to
9 everyone;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
12 contributions of women in the United States military service
13 and their sacrifices and bravery be recognized; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the office of the adjutant general of the
16 department of military affairs, the secretary of workforce
17 solutions, the university of New Mexico veterans resource
18 center and the president of women veterans of New Mexico. _____