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HOUSE MEMORIAL 68

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY

Gail Armstrong

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

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1 nurse corps superintendent, received the navy cross for her  
2 service; and

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

7 WHEREAS, in 1948, congress passed the Women's Armed  
8 Services Integration Act, permitting women to serve as  
9 permanent members of the military, when, prior to the act,  
10 women only served in times of war; and

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

14 WHEREAS, although relatively little official data exists  
15 about female Vietnam conflict veterans, the Vietnam women's  
16 memorial foundation estimates that approximately eleven  
17 thousand military women were deployed to Vietnam, ninety  
18 percent of whom served as military nurses; and

19 WHEREAS, servicewomen serving during Operation Desert  
20 Shield and Operation Desert Storm were the largest deployment  
21 of military women in United States history, with more than  
22 forty thousand women deployed; and

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

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1           WHEREAS, in 2016, the first female soldiers became  
2 infantry soldiers; and

3           WHEREAS, also in 2016, United States Air Force General  
4 Lori Robinson took over as leader of the United States northern  
5 command, becoming the first female service member to lead a  
6 unified combatant command and thus the highest-ranking woman in  
7 the United States military; and

8           WHEREAS, in January 2017, the first three female marines  
9 graduated from infantry school; and

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

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

16          WHEREAS, today, the United States military has opened all  
17 positions to women, as long as the qualifying requirements are  
18 met; and

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

23          WHEREAS, of the total, there were twelve thousand six  
24 hundred seventeen female veterans, or eight and nine-tenths  
25 percent of all veterans; and

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1           WHEREAS, in New Mexico, women made up five and seven-  
2 tenths percent of veterans age sixty-five years or older in  
3 2016; and

4           WHEREAS, women face considerable challenges during and  
5 after military service, and women veterans are entitled to the  
6 same veterans' benefits as men, as well as some that are  
7 tailored to the particular needs of female veterans; and

8           WHEREAS, resources such as the university of New Mexico  
9 veterans resource center and women veterans of New Mexico are  
10 available to female soldiers and veterans, offering support  
11 networks and safety nets; and

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

15           WHEREAS, the tribute to women in the military honors all  
16 military women, past, present and future, and is open to  
17 everyone;

18           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the  
20 contributions of women in the United States military service  
21 and their sacrifices and bravery be recognized; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 transmitted to the office of the adjutant general of the  
24 department of military affairs, the secretary of workforce  
25 solutions, the university of New Mexico veterans resource

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center and the president of women veterans of New Mexico.