

RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE THE GROUNDBREAKING SERVICE OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

WHEREAS, The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was the women's branch of the United States Army, created as an auxiliary unit in May of 1942 and converted to full status as the WAC in 1943 and;

WHEREAS, These women faced opposition by both the conservative leadership of the Army and general public opinion and;

WHEREAS, Approximately 150,000 American women served in World War II, the first women, other than nurses, to serve in the Army and;

WHEREAS, These groundbreaking women were highly valued by Generals such as General Douglas MacArthur and General Dwight Eisenhower who said, "their contributions in efficiency, skill, spirit and determination are immeasurable" and;

WHEREAS, other branches of the US Military had women's units including the Navy (WAVES), the Coast Guard (SPARS), the (civilian) Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), and Women in Air Force (WAF) and;

WHEREAS, The WAC disbanded in 1978, allowing women to serve in the same units alongside the men and;

WHEREAS, Women have only been allowed in or near combat situations since 1994, when US Defense Secretary Les Aspin ordered the removal of "substantial risk of capture" from the list of grounds for excluding women from certain Military units and;

WHEREAS, Women who served our country through these long years deserve our respect and gratitude both for their contributions to our military and for the furtherance of Women's Rights and Equality in the US

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Washington State set aside a day to honor these women and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That RPEC WA adopt this resolution and forward it to the Washington State Legislature and the Governor's Office for action.