

House Resolution 407

By: Representatives Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>, and Gladney of the 130<sup>th</sup>

### A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Kathaleen Frances Harris for her service in the armed forces and recognizing  
2 March 7, 2023, as Female Veteran's Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Colonel (Ret.) Kathaleen Frances Harris served our country for over 27 years  
4 in the United States Army and Army Reserve, culminating her career as a Senior Program  
5 Budget Officer for the Office of the Chief Army Reserve. She was an active Army Reserve  
6 Officer; and

7 WHEREAS, Colonel Harris is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and the daughter of the late  
8 Ida Belle Covert and William Harris; she has three sisters and five brothers and attended  
9 Western High School, the University of Baltimore, and Central Michigan University; and

10 WHEREAS, before entering the military, Colonel Harris worked as a cost accountant at  
11 Grief & Company and a trust accountant for Mercantile Trust Bank in Baltimore, Maryland;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, she started her military career in 1976 in her hometown of Baltimore, entering  
14 the Army Reserve as a finance and accounting specialist at the rank of Private First Class.  
15 She attended a special two-week basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama. After graduating  
16 from basic training, she was promoted to Specialist Five and served as a weekend warrior

17 with the 2122d United States Army Garrison as an accounting specialist. Within two years,  
18 she was promoted to Staff Sergeant and by the next year made the promotion list for Sergeant  
19 First Class in 1980; and

20 WHEREAS, before pinning on her new rank, Staff Sergeant Harris received a direct  
21 commission to First Lieutenant in September 1980 and was assigned as a Disbursing Officer  
22 in the 2053d Reception Station in Baltimore. In 1982 she went on active duty and was  
23 assigned as a Program Budget Officer to the newly reactivated famous Patton's Third U.S.  
24 Army located at Fort McPherson in Atlanta, Georgia. While there, First Lieutenant Harris  
25 was promoted to Captain in 1984 and served there for five years before being assigned as the  
26 Executive Officer and the Chief of Military Pay of the 453d Finance Support Unit at Fort  
27 Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1989 Captain Harris was assigned to the 97th Army Reserve Command  
29 located at Fort Meade, Maryland, and served as Chief of the Reserve Pay section. In 1991  
30 Captain Harris transferred to Fort McPherson, Georgia, and was promoted to Major. She was  
31 assigned as a Program Budget Officer for the Army Reserve Automation Systems Division.  
32 After a short stay there, she was transferred in 1991 to the new Army Reserve Command as  
33 a Force Structure Program Budget Officer. In 1995 Major Harris left Fort McPherson for an  
34 assignment at the Pentagon with the Comptroller's Office of the Office Chief Army Reserve  
35 (OCAR) as Chief, Execution Branch, Chief of RPA Branch and Operating Agency 23. There  
36 she was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. After serving for over four years at the Pentagon,  
37 she was assigned to a special mission to build the Army Reserve's first financial management  
38 system with TEKSOUTH Corporation in Birmingham, Alabama; and

39 WHEREAS, after completing that mission in 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Harris was assigned  
40 to the Army Reserve Recruiting, Retention and Transition Division of the Office of the Chief

41 Army Reserve, serving as the Chief of Operations and as Chief of Resource Management  
42 Division. She was promoted to Colonel in 2003 and served as Senior Program Budget  
43 Officer for the Chief Army Reserve. Colonel Harris holds several awards and decorations,  
44 the highest being the Legion of Merit; and

45 WHEREAS, she retired in September 2003 after serving close to 28 years. Colonel Harris  
46 is a lifetime member and former president of the National Association of Black Military  
47 Women. In June 2014 she retired again as Program Manager and Senior Engineer Planning  
48 Officer for Northrup Grumman Corporation and as a civilian contractor for the Department  
49 of the Army G 8, FDR Division; and

50 WHEREAS, the selfless and heroic actions of Colonel Harris stand as a shining tribute to the  
51 strength of human spirit and willpower, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the  
52 outstanding accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished American be recognized  
53 appropriately.

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
55 the members of this body commend Kathaleen Frances Harris for her service to the United  
56 States armed forces, risking her life in the defense of freedom and to secure the blessings of  
57 liberty for this nation, and recognize March 7, 2023, as Female Veteran's Day at the state  
58 capitol.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
60 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to  
61 Kathaleen Frances Harris.