

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY SENATOR PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVE HORTON

COMMENDATIONS. Recognizes the contributions and military service of women veterans.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the past and present contributions of women veterans from all branches of the
3 United States Armed Forces and to commend the advocacy and support afforded
4 female veterans through the Women Veterans of the Ark-La-Tex organization.

5 WHEREAS, women's service in the military dates back to the Revolutionary War
6 and women have served in every major war and conflict in American history; and

7 WHEREAS, during the American Revolution, women served as hospital matrons,
8 cooks, laundresses, ammunition carriers, and water bearers; some women took up arms and
9 fought disguised as men; and

10 WHEREAS, as society changed, the role of women in the military evolved from
11 restrictive parameters set by gender bias and stereotypes to the complete integration of
12 today's female soldier into support of and deployment in every phase of the national defense
13 infrastructure including combat operations; and

14 WHEREAS, there are presently more than 32,000 women veterans in the state of
15 Louisiana and approximately 2.1 million nationwide; and

16 WHEREAS, the transition from soldier to civilian can be a daunting task; Women
17 Veterans of the Ark-La-Tex and similar organizations were founded to address the unique,
18 and often unrecognized, challenges facing women veterans as they return to civilian life; and

1 WHEREAS, before discharge from active duty, a service woman must consider
2 securing a new permanent living situation and future employment; Women Veterans of the
3 Ark-La-Tex provide programs and other initiatives designed to address these needs; and

4 WHEREAS, these organizations are dedicated to connecting a veteran's skill set to
5 the needs of the civilian workforce through employment opportunity networks, career fairs,
6 and workforce development workshops; and

7 WHEREAS, any woman who has served on active duty, in the Reserves, or in the
8 National Guard, and has been honorably discharged from the military is qualified to join;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the mission of these groups is to equip women veterans with the tools
11 necessary to pursue a rewarding career, to empower these women to become entrepreneurs,
12 and to encourage their mentorship of other women in military service; and

13 WHEREAS, Women Veterans of the Ark-La-Tex maintains strong support for
14 women veterans in their region and educate their communities on the bravery, service, and
15 sacrifice of women veterans from World War II until the present; and

16 WHEREAS, Women Veterans of the Ark-La-Tex honors the contributions of the
17 nation's female veterans, both past and present, with special ceremonies on Memorial Day
18 and Veterans Day; and

19 WHEREAS, through the rigors of military service that may result in health issues,
20 such as physical disability and posttraumatic stress disorder, or economic downturns, sadly,
21 female veterans are the fastest growing segment of the homeless demographic; and

22 WHEREAS, women veteran organizations perform outreach programs to improve
23 awareness of the availability of federal and state services and benefits; and

24 WHEREAS, throughout history military women fought to change public opinions
25 and perceptions about the mental and physical capabilities of female service personnel and
26 those changes have also benefitted women in the private sector; their accomplishments have
27 paved the way for present day active duty service women to achieve their fullest potential;
28 and women veterans challenged the military establishment as trailblazers, risk-takers, and
29 pioneers; and

30 WHEREAS, women veterans deserve recognition for their patriotism, service, and

