

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1022

By: Conley

6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution proclaiming Monday, May 6, 2019, to be
9 Women Veterans Day in Oklahoma; and recognizing and
10 saluting the service and sacrifices of more than
11 29,000 female veterans who live in Oklahoma.

12 WHEREAS, women have a long, courageous and largely unrecognized
13 history of military service to our country; and

14 WHEREAS, at the founding of our nation, women provided important
15 support services as nurses, cooks, laundresses and clerks for the
16 troops, and heroically stepped up to the front lines, or risked
17 their lives in other ways; and

18 WHEREAS, throughout the history of our nation, women such as
19 Clara Barton, who cared for the wounded and dying from Antietam to
20 Andersonville during the Civil War, and Cathay Williams, who, freed
21 from slavery during the Civil War, dressed as a man to serve two
22 years as an infantry soldier, and thousands more women, whose names
23 are unknown to history, have in every conflict served our national
24 interests largely without official recognition and commendation; and

1 WHEREAS, with America's approach and entry into World War I, for
2 the first time women were recruited to serve in auxiliary military
3 units and 14,000 women responded to free troops for combat by
4 serving in noncombat duties such as clerks and radio electricians
5 while 21,000 more women served in the Army Nurse Corps at camps and
6 hospitals here and overseas; and

7 WHEREAS, women's services nonetheless continued to be regarded
8 in a subordinate position and hundreds of women who served in the
9 Army Signal Corps were required to purchase their own uniforms and
10 were denied military discharges until 1979, long after most of these
11 veterans had passed away; and

12 WHEREAS, the auxiliary units were disbanded following World War
13 I until 1941 and in 1943 were granted official military status in
14 the Women's Army Corps (WACs), Women Accepted for Volunteer
15 Emergency Service (WAVES), the Navy and the Marine Corps Women's
16 Reserve; and

17 WHEREAS, with the passage of the Women's Armed Services
18 Integration Act of 1948, women were finally allowed to serve as
19 permanent members of the military and granted entitlement to veteran
20 benefits; and

21 WHEREAS, today, more than 200,000 women, comprising about ten
22 percent (10%) of all service personnel, including dozens of female
23 generals and admirals, are fully integrated throughout all branches
24 of the armed forces, including combat components; and

1 WHEREAS, throughout the long restrictions on their opportunity
2 to serve, women did so despite injury, privation, imprisonment and
3 death; and

4 WHEREAS, one in ten living veterans is a female veteran; and

5 WHEREAS, more than 29,000 Oklahoma residents are female
6 veterans.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
8 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 57TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

9 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives hereby proclaims
10 Monday, May 6, 2019, to be Women Veterans Day in Oklahoma.

11 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages all
12 Oklahomans to join in recognizing, appreciating and saluting the
13 service and sacrifices of more than 29,000 female veterans who live
14 in Oklahoma.

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16 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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