

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 737

Recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps and expressing the appreciation of the Senate for the contribution of the members of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2018

Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps and expressing the appreciation of the Senate for the contribution of the members of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II.

Whereas the personnel requirements of World War II created a shortage of nurses and, by 1942, it was evident that the pace of training for new nurses could not keep up with the demands of the military and civilian populations of the United States;

Whereas, as nurses vacated positions in hospitals, schools, and welfare agencies to meet the needs of the Armed Forces, an influx of millions of new workers to industrial areas created unprecedented public health challenges, and

such challenges were exacerbated by a nursing capacity that was not sufficient to meet the demands of both the Armed Forces and essential civilian services;

Whereas the Act of June 15, 1943 (57 Stat. 153, chapter 126; commonly known as the “Bolton Act”), unani-
mously passed both houses of Congress;

Whereas the Bolton Act resulted in the establishment of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps, which was a uni-
formed service under the direction of the United States Public Health Service and operated from 1943 to 1948;

Whereas the United States Cadet Nurse Corps was open to minorities, including African Americans and Native Americans, because the Bolton Act included a provision restricting discrimination in the administration of the Act on account of race, creed, or color;

Whereas enrollment in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps required a commitment to serve for the duration of World War II, with each cadet taking the following pledge: “I will dedicate myself now and forever to the triumph of life over death; As a Cadet nurse, I pledge to my country my service in essential nursing for the duration of the war.”;

Whereas an April 1944 memorandum from the Federal Security Agency identified “national recognition for rendering a vital war service” as a privilege of service in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps;

Whereas with more than 120,000 women enrolled in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps by the termination of the program, the United States Cadet Nurse Corps played an important role in overcoming the nursing

shortage at military, Federal, and non-Federal hospitals across the United States; and

Whereas Surgeon General Thomas Parran, appearing before the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives in January 1945, highlighted the positive contribution of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps to the war effort by stating, “We cannot measure what the loss to the country would have been if [the] civilian nursing service had collapsed, any more than we could measure the cost of failure on the Normandy beachheads.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the for-
3 mation of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps; and

4 (2) expresses appreciation for the vital con-
5 tribution that the members of the United States
6 Cadet Nurse Corps made to the war effort by filling
7 critical military and essential civilian nursing posi-
8 tions during the nursing shortage caused by World
9 War II.

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