

**No. R-46. Joint resolution honoring women veterans and requesting that state and federal officials work cooperatively to assure that women veterans receive their due recognition and essential support services.**

(J.R.H.8)

Offered by: Representatives Taylor of Barre City and Grad of Moretown

Whereas, March is Women's History Month, and the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Commission on Women, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are recording the stories of the state's women veterans for preservation by the Vermont Women's History Project, and

Whereas, although women have unofficially and honorably served in combat roles since the American Revolution, it was not until 1901 that the first United States military unit for women, the Army Nurse Corps, was created, and

Whereas, decades later in 1942, Congress enacted the Women's Naval Reserve Act and established the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps and the Women Air Service Pilots, whose surviving veterans in 2010 were each awarded a Congressional Gold Medal honoring their military service, and

Whereas, women now comprise 14 percent of active duty and nearly 17 percent of those serving in the various Reserves and National Guard forces, and

Whereas, the number of women veterans is expected to be nearly two million by 2020 and will constitute more than 10 percent of the veteran population, and

Whereas, there is now an increasing need to improve health care services offered to women veterans and to ensure clinicians are properly trained to provide primary care and gender-specific care to women of all ages, and

Whereas, in light of the rapidly increasing number of women returning from deployments including some with exposure to combat, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and state and voluntary veterans' organizations work cooperatively to ensue that needed health and other support services are available to these women who have patriotically served our country, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors women veterans and requests that state and federal officials work cooperatively to assure that women veterans receive their due recognition and essential support services, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the director and women veterans coordinator at the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs, to the United States Veterans Health Administration women veterans program manager in White River Junction, and to the Vermont offices of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion's Women's Auxiliary.