

No. R-315. House concurrent resolution congratulating Vermont National Guard Specialist Skylar Anderson on becoming the first woman certified as a U.S. military combat engineer.

(H.C.R.238)

Offered by: Representatives Fagan of Rutland City, Ancel of Calais, Bancroft of Westford, Bartholomew of Hartland, Baser of Bristol, Batchelor of Derby, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Berry of Manchester, Beyor of Highgate, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Branagan of Georgia, Brennan of Colchester, Briglin of Thetford, Browning of Arlington, Burditt of West Rutland, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Canfield of Fair Haven, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Condon of Colchester, Connor of Fairfield, Conquest of Newbury, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Corcoran of Bennington, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Dakin of Colchester, Dame of Essex, Davis of Washington, Deen of Westminster, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Donovan of Burlington, Eastman of Orwell, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Feltus of Lyndon, Fields of Bennington, Fiske of Enosburgh, Forguites of Springfield, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Gage of Rutland City, Gamache of Swanton, Gonzalez of Winooski, Grad of Moretown, Graham of Williamstown, Greshin of Warren, Haas of Rochester, Head of South Burlington, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of Fair Haven, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Montpelier, Hubert of Milton, Huntley of Cavendish, Jerman of Essex, Jewett of Ripton, Johnson of South Hero, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Komline of Dorset, Krebs of South Hero, Krowinski of Burlington, LaClair of Barre Town, LaLonde of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lawrence of Lyndon, Lefebvre of Newark, Lenes of Shelburne, Lewis of Berlin, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Macaig of Williston, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marcotte of Coventry, Martel of Waterford, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford, McCormack of Burlington, McCoy of Poultney, McCullough of Williston, McFaun of Barre Town, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Murphy of Fairfax, Myers of Essex, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Olsen of Londonderry, Parent of St. Albans Town, Partridge of Windham, Patt of Worcester, Pearce of Richford, Pearson of Burlington, Poirier of Barre City, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Purvis of Colchester, Quimby of Concord, Rachelson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Ryerson of Randolph, Savage of Swanton, Scheuermann of Stowe, Sharpe of Bristol, Shaw of Pittsford, Shaw of Derby, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibia of Dover, Smith of New Haven, Smith of Morristown, Stevens of Waterbury, Strong of Albany, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sullivan of Burlington, Sweaney of Windsor, Tate of Mendon, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Till of Jericho, Toleno of Brattleboro, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham, Troiano of Stannard, Turner of Milton, Viens of Newport City, Walz of Barre City, Webb of Shelburne, Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Wood of Waterbury, Woodward of Johnson, Wright of Burlington, Yantachka of Charlotte, Young of Glover, and Zagar of Barnard

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Bray, Campbell, Campion, Collamore, Cummings, Degree, Doyle, Flory, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Mullin, Nitka, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Snelling, Starr, Westman, White, and Zuckerman

Whereas, Skylar Anderson is a University of Vermont (UVM) junior and aspires to become a veterinarian, and

Whereas, in addition to her academic achievements, as a Vermont National Guard Specialist, Skylar Anderson is a uniquely accomplished and truly dedicated member of our nation's military, and

Whereas, Skylar Anderson took her oath of military service while still a high school senior in Derry, New Hampshire, and she transferred from the New Hampshire to the Vermont National Guard on becoming a UVM student, and

Whereas, until 2013, no military role designated as combat was open to women, and U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter recently issued an historic decision allowing women to apply for all combat roles, and

Whereas, Specialist Skylar Anderson was seeking more challenging military service opportunities, and

Whereas, a supervisor suggested that Specialist Skylar Anderson attend the North Dakota National Guard's 164th Regional Training Institute's combat engineering training school in Devils Lake, North Dakota, that had only opened to women on August 1, 2015, and

Whereas, combat engineers must master dangerous and difficult battlefield skills, including clearing landmines, constructing bridges under fire, and building structures to halt an enemy's advance, and

Whereas, Specialist Skylar Anderson was assessed in each task according to the same standards as a male Soldier, and

Whereas, the instructors did not inform Specialist Skylar Anderson and the other students in her class of her historic role as the first female candidate to seek combat engineer certification until the 16-day course was nearly concluded, and

Whereas, Specialist Skylar Anderson passed all the requirements, and the instructors were pleased to award her the combat engineer certification, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Vermont National Guard Specialist Skylar Anderson on becoming the first woman certified as a U.S. military combat engineer, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Vermont National Guard Specialist Skylar Anderson.