

No. R-423. Senate concurrent resolution honoring Patricia Kenworthy Nuckols of Manchester on being presented a Congressional Gold Medal for her extraordinary military service as a member of the World War II Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

(S.C.R.48)

By Senators Hartwell and Sears,

By Representative Wilson of Manchester,

Whereas, at the onset of World War II, there was a shortage of qualified male pilots to transport new planes from the factory to their initial military airfield location, and

Whereas, in September 1942, with the public support of Eleanor Roosevelt, the Women's Auxiliary Ferry Squadron (WAFS) was established, and shortly thereafter, the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) was also formed, and

Whereas, these two separately operated programs were merged in the summer of 1943 into the Women Airforce Service Pilots, and

Whereas, 25,000 licensed women pilots applied, but fewer than 1,900 were accepted; and, after military training, 1,078 earned their flying wings as members of this elite and pioneering corps of women pilots, and

Whereas, WASPs, despite being classified as civilians, were stationed at 120 air bases and flew many types of noncombat missions, and

Whereas, the effort to grant WASP flyers military status began in 1943 but did not succeed until President Carter signed the G.I. Improvement Act of 1977, and

Whereas, in 1984, each WASP was awarded a World War II Victory Medal, and

Whereas, on July 1, 2009, President Obama signed legislation awarding the WASPs a Congressional Gold Medal, and

Whereas, on March 10 of this year, 200 surviving WASPs, including 88-year-old Patricia Kenworthy Nuckols of Manchester, gathered at the United States Capitol for a special ceremony at which United States House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, along with other congressional leaders, presented these brave women with their well-deserved Congressional Gold Medals, and

Whereas, two now-deceased Vermont women, Sylvia Burrill of Bennington and Monica Frassetto of Dummerston, also flew as WASPs during World War II and were honored posthumously, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Patricia Kenworthy Nuckols of Manchester for her extraordinary military service as a World War II flying WASP and on her being presented a Congressional Gold Medal, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Patricia Kenworthy Nuckols in Manchester.