

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.122

Rep. Tate offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare June 12, 2019, as Women Veterans  
2 Recognition Day in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, Women have proudly served their country throughout  
4 all periods of the history of the United States, whether disguised  
5 as male soldiers during the American Revolution and Civil War, as  
6 nurses in World War I, or as combat helicopter pilots in  
7 Afghanistan; and

8       Whereas, Women have formally been a part of the United States  
9 Armed Forces since the inception of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901,  
10 but have informally served since the inception of our nation's  
11 military; and

12       Whereas, During the American Revolution, women served on the  
13 battlefield alongside the men, mainly as nurses, water bearers,



1 often called "Molly Pitchers," cooks, laundresses, and saboteurs.  
2 Despite Army regulations that only men could enlist, women who  
3 wanted to join in the fighting circumvented the rules by  
4 masquerading as young men or boys; and

5       Whereas, In 1917, the Navy announced it would open enlistment  
6 to women. About 12,000 female yeomen entered the Navy and filled a  
7 variety of jobs, including draftsmen, interpreters, couriers, and  
8 translators; and

9       Whereas, Three hundred seven women enlisted in the Marine  
10 Corps during World War I. Like their sisters in the Navy, they were  
11 limited to the enlisted ranks and worked mainly in Washington,  
12 D.C., doing various administrative jobs. Women's service  
13 contributions in World War I showed that they either had, or could  
14 quickly learn, nontraditional skills needed by the military; and

15       Whereas, Following Pearl Harbor, Congress authorized new  
16 women's components for each of the services and increased the  
17 number of active duty positions in the Army and Navy Nurse Corps.  
18 In May 1942, the Army was given the authority to establish the  
19 Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, also known as the WAACs. The Navy,  
20 Coast Guard, and Marine Corps followed suit, but rather than making  
21 women an auxiliary component, they opted to enroll them in the  
22 reserves on the same basis as their male counterparts, while the  
23 Army Air Forces enlisted nearly 1,100 female civilian volunteers  
24 who earned their silver wings as Women Airforce Service Pilots  
25 (WASP); and

26       Whereas, At the end of World War II in 1945, of the  
27 approximately 12 million people remaining in the Armed Forces,  
28 about 280,000 were women; and

29       Whereas, With the passage of the Women's Armed Services

1 Integration Act of 1948, women became a permanent part of the  
2 United States military, but women continued to be restricted to 2  
3 percent of the military population. That restriction was finally  
4 lifted in 1967 with the amendment of the Women's Armed Services  
5 Integration Act, which also opened senior officer ranks to women;  
6 and

7       Whereas, The early 1990s were a historic time for women in the  
8 military with over 40,000 women deploying in support of the Persian  
9 Gulf War, making women service members more visible in the eyes of  
10 the public. In addition, the Defense Authorization Act in 1992  
11 repealed combat exclusion laws that had prevented women from flying  
12 combat aircrafts; and

13       Whereas, Women who have served in the United States military  
14 are often referred to as "invisible veterans" because their service  
15 contributions, until the 1970s, went largely unrecognized by  
16 politicians, the media, academia, and the general public; and

17       Whereas, Even though women have been officially serving in the  
18 military since the creation of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, they  
19 have not always been considered qualified for veteran status for  
20 the purpose of receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans  
21 Affairs. Even after women were granted veteran status, issues of  
22 access, exclusion, and improper management of their health care  
23 still remained; and

24       Whereas, It was not until well after World War II that women  
25 who served in the military began to officially be recognized as  
26 veterans; and

27       Whereas, In the late 1970s and early 1980s, many of the  
28 contributions made by women in World War II were formally  
29 recognized through laws that granted these women with veteran

1 status for their time in service. This opened the doors for women  
2 to take advantage of programs, opportunities, and benefits from the  
3 federal and state governments, the Department of Veterans Affairs,  
4 and other veteran service organizations; and

5       Whereas, The 1980 decennial census marked the first time that  
6 information on women veterans was ever captured in a large national  
7 survey. At the time of the 1980 decennial census, women made up  
8 just over 2 percent of the veteran population. Today, that  
9 proportion has increased to almost 8 percent; and

10       Whereas, Over the past 20 years, the Veterans Health  
11 Administration (VHA) has introduced initiatives designed to improve  
12 health care access and quality of care for women veterans; and

13       Whereas, In 2008, VHA's Women Veterans Health Strategic Health  
14 Care Group began a five-year plan to redesign the nation's health  
15 care delivery system for women. A fundamental component of this  
16 plan was to ensure that all women veterans had access to  
17 comprehensive primary care from skilled women's health providers;  
18 and

19       Whereas, There are currently over 2 million women veterans  
20 living in the United States and Puerto Rico. Of this number, nearly  
21 44,000 make Michigan their home; now, therefore, be it

22       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
23 this legislative body declare June 12, 2019, as Women Veterans  
24 Recognition Day in the state of Michigan. We urge all Michiganders  
25 to honor women veterans on this momentous occasion.