

1 HR586
2 120025-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 11-MAR-10

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8 HONORING WOMEN IN THE MILITARY DURING WOMEN'S
9 HISTORY MONTH.

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11 WHEREAS, women have served honorably and with
12 courage in all of America's wars and conflicts since the
13 American Revolution; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States military has evolved from
15 a predominantly male force to a force of more than 14 percent
16 women who are currently serving on active duty, and nearly 17
17 percent serving in the Reserves and National Guard; and

18 WHEREAS, the population of women veterans is
19 increasing exponentially from 1.1 million in 1980 to a
20 projection of nearly 2 million by 2020, comprising more than
21 10 percent of the veteran population; and

22 WHEREAS, the projected population of male veterans
23 is expected to continue to decline; and

24 WHEREAS, given that women in unprecedented numbers
25 are serving in the military and participating in Operation
26 Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the United
27 States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is working to

1 provide consistent, comprehensive, and quality health care and
2 benefits to women veterans of all eras; and

3 WHEREAS, the number of female veterans has increased
4 during the last decade because there are increasing numbers of
5 women who are entering and leaving the military and because
6 women are living longer than men and have a younger age
7 distribution compared to male veterans; and

8 WHEREAS, even though VA has been at the forefront of
9 health care and lifestyle solutions affecting an aging male
10 population, there is now a growing need to improve health care
11 services for women veterans, ensure that clinicians are
12 properly trained to provide primary care and gender-specific
13 care to women of all ages, and identify innovative courses of
14 treatment and solutions to obstacles that are unique to women
15 veterans; and

16 WHEREAS, with a rapidly increasing number of women
17 serving in the military and returning from deployments as
18 seasoned veterans and often with exposure to combat, VA
19 facilities and veterans service organizations are working to
20 ensure that the post-deployment mental and physical health
21 needs unique to women are also met; and

22 WHEREAS, even though the roles of women in the
23 military have changed over time and will continue to change,
24 women deserve to be acknowledged for their military service
25 and treated with equal respect; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
27 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we encourage the Alabama

1 Veterans Administration to work in conjunction with the
2 National Foundation for Women Legislators and the Center for
3 Women Veterans at the United States Department of Veterans
4 Affairs, to reach out to all women veterans in Alabama to
5 identify unique issues impacting women veterans and consider
6 policy solutions that will improve the quality of life for all
7 our women veterans.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That by copy of this
9 resolution for appropriate display, the State of Alabama
10 honors all women in this state who have heroically answered
11 their call to duty.