

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 23-31

PATRON: Penny Gross, Victor Angry

DATE: May 25, 2023

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S ARMED SERVICES INTEGRATION ACT

WHEREAS in 2022, the Northern Virginia was declared a Great American Defense Community by the Association of Defense Communities for conducting listening sessions and implementing resulting actions to create a more equitable place for all service members and their families to call home;

WHEREAS during the Civil War, women stepped into many nontraditional roles for the time, supporting the war effort as nurses and aides. Women first officially enlisted in the military during World War I, with over 35,000 women serving during the war, but they were released when the war ended;

WHEREAS during World War II, women answered their nation's call and an even greater number of women volunteers served in the armed forces;

WHEREAS in 1943, Congress gave the Women's Army Corps (WAC) full army status during wartime, but the WAC law was scheduled to expire on June 30, 1948. Recognizing the valuable service of women and the need to allow them to continue to serve in the military, President Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act on June 12, 1948, which legally permitted women to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces in a number of official capacities;

WHEREAS previously, women serving in the military could enlist as volunteers in clerical positions or work as nurses, the act allowed women to serve in all four branches of the military, including the recently formed Air Force. The law limited the number of women who could serve in the military to 2 percent of the total forces in each branch;

WHEREAS today, there are over 200,000 women in the active-duty military, including 69 generals and admirals, women are now able to serve in any military occupational specialty and continue to make our force stronger;

WHEREAS as our Nation celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act on June 12, 2023, we are reminded of the service, sacrifices and contributions of women within our military ranks to protect and defend our constitution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission does hereby honor and recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act. We celebrate Americans who continue to breaking barriers to equal opportunity in the Armed Forces.



CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on May 25, 2023.


ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER