

Resolution No. 301

SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM VETERANS DAY ON AUGUST 30

WHEREAS, the United States has been engaged in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) since September 11, 2001, with military operations conducted across multiple theaters, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and other regions; and

WHEREAS, millions of American service members have served in combat and support roles during the Global War on Terrorism, making tremendous sacrifices in defense of the nation and its allies; and

WHEREAS, over 7,000 American service members have given their lives, and tens of thousands have been wounded in the fight against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, the service and sacrifices of these veterans, including those who continue to serve, deserve national recognition and appreciation; and

WHEREAS, the United States has established March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day to honor those who served during the Vietnam War, recognizing their sacrifices and contributions; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to designate August 30 as Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day, a date which marks the official end of the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan in 2021, as a national day of recognition for all veterans of the Global War on Terrorism; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States petitions Congress and the President of the United States to formally designate August 30 as Global War on Terrorism Veterans Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW encourages all Americans to recognize and honor the service and sacrifices of Global War on Terrorism veterans through appropriate ceremonies, educational programs, and community initiatives each year on this day.

Submitted by Department of Oklahoma
To Committee on GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

REJECTED by the 127th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Resolution No. 302

NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY – JUNE 12

WHEREAS, on June 12, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act, granting women the right to serve as permanent and regular members of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, as of May 2023, only twenty (20) states and one (1) U.S. territory formally recognize June 12th as Women Veterans Recognition Day; and

WHEREAS, women have faithfully served this nation since the Revolutionary War, providing critical support to the Continental Army through mending, medical care, food preparation and logistical assistance with some women disguising themselves as men to fight in combat; and

WHEREAS, during the American Civil War, approximately 3,000 women served within the newly formed United States Army Nurses and an estimated 1,000 additional women participated in combat roles while disguised as men on both sides of the conflict; and

WHEREAS, in 1901, the United States Army Nurse Corps (ANC) was formally established expanding opportunities for women to serve in uniform; and

WHEREAS, World War I marked the first time in U.S. history that women were openly allowed to serve in the Armed Forces, despite not yet having the legal right to vote in the United States; and

WHEREAS, nearly 350,000 American women honorably served during World War II in critical non-combat roles including aircraft ferrying, vehicle maintenance, cryptology, parachute rigging, radio operations and service in the Army Nurse Corps, thereby freeing men for frontline combat duty; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, 432 American servicewomen were killed in action and 88 were taken prisoner demonstrating courage, sacrifice and valor; and

WHEREAS, following the war, very few women were permitted to continue military careers and many struggled for decades to obtain veterans' status and benefits for their honorable service; and

WHEREAS, while women have served in combat zones since 1775, the formal ban on women serving in combat roles was not lifted until 2013 by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta; and

WHEREAS, today approximately 400,000 women serve in the United States Armed Forces, representing 17% of the active-duty force and 21% of the reserve components and continue to serve with honor and distinction; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that June 12th be recognized at the federal level as National Women Veterans Recognition Day, honoring the service, sacrifice and continued contributions of America's women veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the appropriate congressional committees, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of the President of the United States for consideration and action.

Submitted by Department of California
To Committee on GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

REJECTED by the 127th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.