

House Concurrent Resolution No. 7

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTON GRAY (Sponsor), DAY, WRIGHT, MEADOWS, PACE, ATKINS, SWINGER, CASEY, BROWN (50), CONWAY (27) AND ELLINGER (Co-sponsors).

0362L.011

1 **WHEREAS**, women have served honorably and with courage in all of America's wars
2 and conflicts since the American Revolution; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the United States military has evolved from a predominantly male force to
5 a force of over 14% women who are currently serving on active duty, and nearly 17% serving
6 in the Reserves and National Guard; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the population of women veterans is increasing exponentially from 1.1
9 million in 1980 to a projection of nearly 2 million by 2020, and will comprise more than 10%
10 of the veteran population; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the projected population of male veterans is expected to continue to
13 decline; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, given that an unprecedented number of women are serving in the military
16 and participating in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the United States
17 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is working to provide consistent, comprehensive, and
18 quality health care and benefits to women veterans of all eras; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the number of women veterans has increased over the last decade because
21 there is an increasing number and proportion of women who are entering and leaving the
22 military, and women are living longer than men and have a younger age distribution compared
23 to male veterans; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, even though the VA has been at the forefront of health care and lifestyle
26 solutions affecting an aging male population, there is now a growing need to improve health care
27 services for women veterans, ensure clinicians are properly trained to provide primary care and
28 gender specific care to women of all ages, and identify innovative courses of treatment and
29 solutions to obstacles that are unique to women veterans; and

30

31 **WHEREAS**, with a rapidly increasing number of women serving in the military today
32 and returning from deployments as seasoned veterans, and some with exposure to combat, VA
33 facilities and veterans service organizations are working to ensure that the post-deployment
34 mental and physical health needs unique to women veterans are also met; and

35

36 **WHEREAS**, even though the roles of women in the military have changed over time and
37 will continue to change, they deserve to be acknowledge for their military service and treated
38 with equal respect:

39

40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri
41 House of Representatives, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
42 concurring therein, hereby encourages the Missouri Veterans Commission and its women
43 veterans state coordinator to work in conjunction with the National Foundation for Women
44 Legislators and the Center for Women Veterans at the United States Department of Veterans
45 Affairs to reach out to all women veterans within the State of Missouri to encourage them to
46 bring their specific needs and concerns to the attention of agency officials so that state legislators
47 and agency officials may work together to identify unique issues impacting women veterans and
48 consider policy solutions that will improve the quality of life for women veterans within this
49 state; and

50

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Missouri General Assembly formally honors
52 all of the women in this state who have heroically answered their call to duty and recognizes the
53 important role women have played in shaping this great nation; and

54

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
56 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
57 Missouri Veterans Commission.

T