

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 11

## 97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTON GRAY (Sponsor), SOLON, DAVIS, DOHRMAN, GANNON, BAHR, SHUMAKE, PACE, KIRKTON, PIERSON, MEREDITH, MCKENNA, CONWAY (10), MCCAHERTY, HICKS, GARDNER, SCHUPP, BURNS, LYNCH, BLACK, NICHOLS, CARPENTER, WRIGHT AND NETH (Co-sponsors).

4730L.011

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

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

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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

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

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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

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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

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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  
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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:  
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40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri  
41 House of Representatives, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the  
42 Senate concurring therein, hereby encourages the Missouri Veterans Commission and its women  
43 veterans state coordinator to work in conjunction with the Center for Women Veterans at the  
44 United States Department of Veterans Affairs to reach out to all women veterans within the State  
45 of Missouri to encourage them to bring their specific needs and concerns to the attention of  
46 agency officials so that state legislators and agency officials may work together to identify unique  
47 issues impacting women veterans and consider policy solutions that will improve the quality of  
48 life for women veterans within this state; and  
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50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Missouri General Assembly formally honors  
51 all of the women in this state who have heroically answered their call to duty and recognizes the  
52 important role women have played in shaping this great nation; and  
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54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
55 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the  
56 Missouri Veterans Commission.

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