

HOUSE BILL NO. 4555

May 11, 2023, Introduced by Reps. Rogers, Coleman, Liberati, Brabec, Coffia, Hill, Paiz, McKinney, Morgan, Hope, Breen, McFall, Mentzer, Shannon, Brixie, Andrews, Tsernoglou, Rheingans, Wilson, Wegela, Grant, Morse, Bezotte, Slagh, Roth, Neeley, Jaime Greene, Brenda Carter, Weiss, Koleszar, Arbit, Dievendorf, MacDonell, Conlin, Martus, Skaggs, Churches, VanderWall, O'Neal, Fitzgerald, Miller, Byrnes, Edwards, Scott, Young, Tyrone Carter, Bierlein, Outman, Martin, Markkanen and Whitsett and referred to the Committee on Military, Veterans and Homeland Security.

A bill to designate June 12 of each year as Women Veterans Recognition Day.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. (1) The legislature recognizes all of the following:

2 (a) Women have proudly served the United States in many
3 military roles throughout its history. The roles include, but are
4 not limited to, all of the following:

5 (i) Soldiers, disguised as men, during the American Revolution
6 and the American Civil War.

7 (ii) Nurses in World War I.

1 (iii) Combat helicopter pilots in Afghanistan.

2 (b) Women have served as an informal part of the United States
3 Armed Forces since its inception. Women have served as a formal
4 part of the United States Armed Forces since the establishment of
5 the Army Nurse Corps in 1901.

6 (c) In 1917, the United States Navy announced that it would
7 allow women to enlist. During World War I, approximately 12,000
8 women served in the United States Navy as couriers and translators,
9 among other roles. By 1945, the end of World War II, there were
10 approximately 280,000 women in the United States Armed Forces.

11 (d) Women were permitted to serve as permanent members of the
12 United States Armed Forces with the enactment of the women's armed
13 services integration act of 1948, but the federal law restricted
14 women to not more than 2% of the enlisted force for each branch of
15 the United States Armed Forces. A subsequent act in 1967 lifted the
16 restriction and allowed women to achieve higher military rank.

17 (e) Laws passed since the 1970s have formally granted veteran
18 status to women with World War II service; have recognized the many
19 contributions made by women veterans; and have allowed women
20 veterans more equal status and access to benefits, opportunities,
21 and programs from the federal government, state governments, and
22 veteran service organizations.

23 (f) More than 2,000,000 women veterans live in the United
24 States, and approximately 48,000 women veterans reside in this
25 state.

26 (2) In recognition of women veterans, the legislature declares
27 that June 12 of each year shall be known as "Women Veterans
28 Recognition Day".