



Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

PROCLAMATION

HONORING WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

WHEREAS, Women have proudly served in the United States military throughout our nation's history. This included women such as Margaret Corbin and Deborah Sampson who disguised themselves as men in order to fight alongside George Washington's Continental Army and colonial militias during the Revolutionary War.

WHEREAS, Approximately 3,000 women served as nurses for the Union Army during the Civil War. This included nurses like Clara Barton who received a special "military pass" that permitted her to travel directly onto the battlefield, where she drove her medical wagons straight into combat to render aid to wounded soldiers on the front lines.

WHEREAS, More than 12,000 women enlisted in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army Signal Corps to work as telephone and switchboard operators during World War I. Their work was instrumental in improving wartime communication, relaying messages about troop movements and supplies. This also marked the first time that women were allowed to openly serve in the United States military. Yet, despite their contributions to the war effort, these women wouldn't be recognized for their status as veterans until decades later in 1979.

WHEREAS, Nearly 350,000 women served in uniform during World War II. Many of these women worked clerical roles as they did in World War I, but they also drove vehicles, repaired airplanes, rigged parachutes, test-flew airplanes, and even trained their male counterparts in air combat tactics. More than 57,000 women enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps, and another 11,000 women joined the Navy Nurse Corps, where many of them would go on to work on the front lines. This included women like Army Colonel Ruby Bradley, a nurse in the Army Nurse Corps, who was kept prisoner at an internment camp in the Phillipines for over three years where she remained steadfast in her calling as a nurse. In total, 432 women were killed in the line of duty during World War II.

WHEREAS, Women were allowed to serve as full, permanent members of all branches of the United States military when President Hany S. Truman signed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act into law in 1948. However, this restricted the number of women who could serve to 2% of each branch and limited how many women could become officers.

WHEREAS, More than 11,000 women volunteered to deploy to Vietnam in the 1960s

and 1970s. Many of these women worked as nurses in the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Other women served as air traffic controllers, intelligence officers, and clerks. President Lyndon B. Johnson would go on to open promotions for women to general and flag ranks in 1967. Women were subsequently allowed to command units that included men beginning in 1972.

WHEREAS, Approximately 40,000 women deployed to combat zones in support of the Gulf War, even though they still could not technically serve in direct combat roles or assignments. In 2013, the ban on women in combat was lifted and female service members were allowed to serve in direct combat roles. This historic change allowed women to serve in almost any role in the U.S. Armed Forces.

WHEREAS, Generation upon generation of women continue to break through the barriers and obstacles that lay before them and have established themselves as effective and capable service members working in defense of our nation.

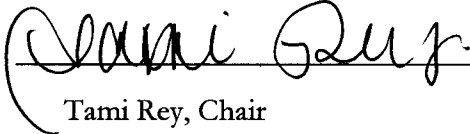
WHEREAS, More than 2,000,000 women veterans live in the United States, with approximately 48,000 women veterans residing in the state of Michigan, and 1,500 women veterans residing in Kalamazoo County.

WHEREAS, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed legislation on June 12, 2023 proclaiming June 12 as Women Veterans Recognition Day, now, therefore be it

PROCLAIMED, That the Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee wishes to recognize the contributions and sacrifices that women veterans have made over the last 248 years. Moreover, we choose to honor their service to our great nation by raising awareness of Women Veterans Recognition Day in our own community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Kalamazoo, Michigan to be affixed this 18th day of June, 2024

Adopted **June 18, 2024**
Moved **Taylor**
Seconded **Heppler**
Carried



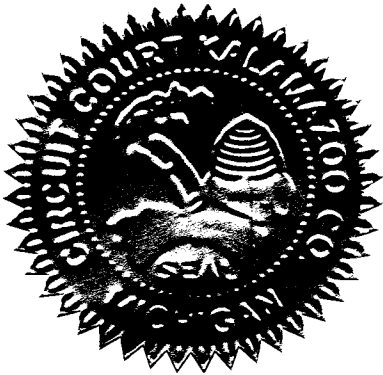
Tami Rey, Chair
Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO

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I, Meredith Place, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Kalamazoo County, Michigan (the "County") do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners at the meeting held on June 18, 2024. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREFORE, I have hereunto affixed by signature this 20th Day of June 2024.



Meredith Place
County Clerk/Register of Deeds