

SENATE RESOLUTION

8653

By Senators Randall and Nobles

1 WHEREAS, The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was the women's branch of  
2 the United States Army, created as an auxiliary unit in May of 1942  
3 and converted to full status as the WAC in 1943; and

4 WHEREAS, These women faced opposition by both the conservative  
5 leadership of the Army and general public opinion; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 150,000 American women served in World War  
7 II, the first women, other than nurses, to serve in the Army; and

8 WHEREAS, These groundbreaking women were highly valued by  
9 generals such as General Douglas MacArthur and General Dwight  
10 Eisenhower who said, "their contributions in efficiency, skill,  
11 spirit and determination are immeasurable"; and

12 WHEREAS, Other branches of the United States military had women's  
13 units including the Navy (WAVES), the Coast Guard (SPARS), the  
14 (civilian) Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), and Women in Air  
15 Force (WAF); and

16 WHEREAS, The WAC disbanded in 1978, allowing women to serve in  
17 the same units alongside the men; and

18 WHEREAS, Women have only been allowed in or near combat  
19 situations since 1994, when United States Defense Secretary Les Aspin  
20 ordered the removal of "substantial risk of capture" from the list of  
21 grounds for excluding women from certain military units; and

22 WHEREAS, Women who served our country through these long years  
23 deserve our respect and gratitude both for their contributions to our

1 military and for the furtherance of women's rights and equality  
2 in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, The Executive Board of the Retired Public Employees  
4 Council of Washington has designated June 12th Women Veterans  
5 Day as a way to recognize the groundbreaking service of women in  
6 the military;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
8 Senate, in recognition of the courageous service of these women,  
9 join the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington in  
10 celebrating the day.

11 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,  
12 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
13 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8653,  
14 adopted by the Senate  
15 February 17, 2022

16 SARAH BANNISTER  
17 Secretary of the Senate