

Date of Hearing: March 11, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Ken Cooley, Chair  
HR 27 (Nguyen) – As Introduced March 4, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Women's Military History Week.

**SUMMARY:** Proclaims the week of March 15 to March 21, 2021, inclusive, as Women's Military History Week in California; and, encourages Californians to recognize the hard-fought contributions of women to our military and our freedom, and the courageous sacrifices that women have made while serving our country. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Women have served bravely in every major United States conflict since the American Revolutionary War, but their courage and service have gone largely unrecognized.
- 2) Approximately 300,000 women in uniform have served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and over 1.4 million women currently serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. Women have served in intelligence gathering and as combat pilots, field artillery officers, chaplains, special operations civil affairs officers, and even members of the ultra-secretive Delta Force.
- 3) January 24, 2021, marks the eighth anniversary of the groundbreaking decision overturning a 1994 Pentagon rule that restricted women from all combat-related roles, including artillery, armor, and infantry.
- 4) Even with the full integration of women into all branches of the military, a woman's ability to serve in combat continued to be impeded by the "Leader's First" policy, which maintained that, in certain cases, enlisted women must wait to enter combat until two or more "women leaders" are assigned to those units.
- 5) It is recognized that women have always been capable of serving in combat and that it is policies like the 1994 ban on women in combat that have precluded women from serving. Since the ban was lifted, women are now training for, and serving in, infantry, armor, and short-range field artillery units and occupations, and the number receiving their Ranger Tabs continues to grow. Moreover, women in all services are also now eligible to serve as Special Operations Forces.
- 6) More than 9,000 female troops have earned Combat Action Badges during modern combat operations, including those in Iraq and Afghanistan, and hundreds more have earned valor awards, including the Silver Star, the Army's third-highest valor award.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800